

Ann Arbor Observer

August 2006

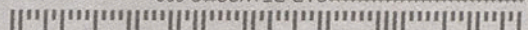
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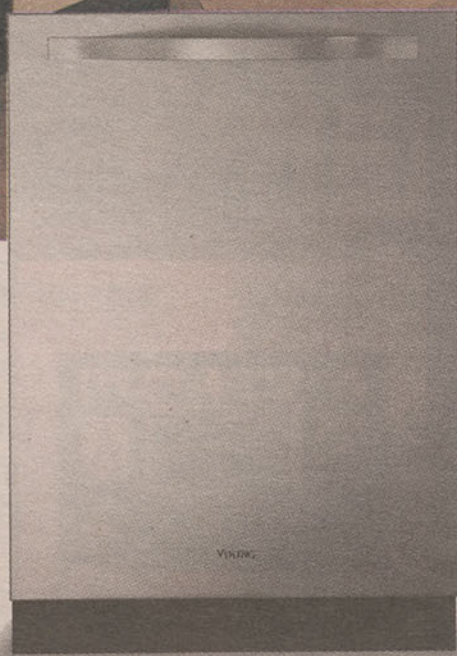
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John Hinchey & Laura Bien

Daily events in Ann Arbor during August, including reviews of the Coen brothers' 1984 film *Blood Simple*, post-Afrobeat band NOMO, the play *Honus & Me* at the Purple Rose Theater (at left), flamenco fusion band Del Castillo, and an exhibit of art by Detroit painter

Vito Jesus Valdez at the Ann Arbor Art Center.

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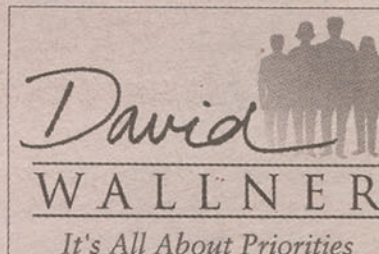
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Googlemania: While the city was awash in euphoria over the news that



Google's AdWords division would bring 1,000 jobs to town, the search giant's existing Ann Arbor staff kept quietly scanning library books at the Eisenhower Commerce Center. When the Observer wrote

about the project in May, neither the landlord nor the company would even confirm its presence. Now at least eighty-five people work there, to judge by the number of cars and trucks parked outside—most from Michigan (we saw only one California plate). The staff is still close mouthed. Smoking cigarettes or sipping juice at two picnic tables out back, four employees declined to say anything about their work; several said they'd signed confidentiality agreements. A peek in the windows revealed many book scanners and an array of yellow, orange, and red book carts filled with volumes from the U-M libraries.

Google's current operation remains so low key that even some neighbors in the one-story brick complex are unaware of it. "I didn't even know that they're here," admitted Sean Williams, a recreation specialist with the public schools' department of community education and recreation. One thing's for sure: the scanners are working overtime. The company's trash is filled with empty Minute Maid and Gatorade containers—and dozens of burned-out True Match fluorescent lamps.

Twin sister: Peterborough, Ontario, is Ann Arbor's sister city—but that's not why the city northeast of Toronto will stand in for Tree Town in the upcoming movie *Jumper*. Directed by Doug Liman (*The Bourne Supremacy*), the movie sends an Ann Arbor teen teleporting around the world (New York, Rome, Tokyo), pursued by evil forces. How did an Ontario imitation win the role over the real thing? "It's a lot cheaper for us to stay close to our main unit in Toronto than to travel to somewhere like Ann Arbor," producer's assistant Matt Coatsworth admitted to the *Peterborough Examiner*. Government subsidies have lately been luring a lot of filmmakers to Canada: last year, a resort area outside Peterborough even stood in for the western United States in *Cheaper by the Dozen 2*.

Sunny days: Once in a while, Katrina Padley hears a couple of campers giggle self-consciously while recalling how they

used to live at SafeHouse. But usually the kids at SOS Community Services Sunny Days Camp—all of them currently or recently homeless—just enjoy activities that range from traditional arts and crafts to a much-anticipated weekly swim at Independence Lake. Free

passes donated by local institutions let the campers take field trips to places like the Hands-On Museum and the Toledo Zoo. Based in the Genesis (St. Clare's and Beth Emeth) building on Packard, the program is serving thirty children this summer, ages six to ten. Padley's biggest regret: for lack of funds, the camp had to turn ten kids away.

Legal legend: A local man going through a nasty custody battle called an Observer reporter to complain that the judge assigned to his case was biased



against fathers. Several lawyers, he said, had quoted him the same "statistic"—out of 1,800 custody decisions, they claimed, judge Archie Brown has awarded joint custody only three times and has never given the father primary custody. Sounds damning—but it's not true. The Observer looked at court records covering a twelve-month period starting in June 2005 and found a total of twenty-four disputed custody cases in Brown's court. The judge awarded sole custody to the mother six times and to the father one time—and awarded joint custody seventeen times.

Dollar DayZ: At Zingerman's Deli, lunch for two can easily top \$30, and even a coffee can cost \$3 or more. So what could Ann Arbor's famous and famously pricey deli offer to those who favor dollar menus or dollar stores? Surprisingly, depending on your taste and the time of day, you can get quite a bit for a buck: a bagel costs 95¢, but if you buy one after 5 p.m., it's half that. Other Bakehouse bargains abound—from 55¢ rustic dinner rolls to the ends of loaves that have been cut for samples, \$1 each.

On weekends Zingerman's sells what it calls a traditional Bavarian pretzel



for \$1—and that's just the start. Rising to the dollar challenge, deli staffers point out that even cheeses that sell for \$20 or \$25 a pound and olives at \$12.99 a pound can be purchased for 100 pennies—in small quantities. "We have people ask for six slices of salami," says the cheese man, who adds that one link of chorizo sausage would run about a buck. Frugal visitors also can get many side dishes—baked beans, rice pudding, applesauce, and potato salad—in a tiny, four-ounce size for about 75¢ to \$1. Of course, samples are free at Zingerman's—and employees are happy to give you several. So try a few cheeses and some side dishes. Taste a bread or two. Then go on over to the cafe Next Door and sample some more.

Global globes: Fourteen years ago Susan Pollay asked a friend to bring a souvenir back from a tropical vacation. To her amusement, the friend returned with a snow globe—a water-filled vessel that, when shaken, decked a tropical scene in white plastic "snow." Over the years other friends added to her collection, and now Pollay, executive director of Ann Arbor's Downtown Development Authority, has over 300 globes representing different places across the world. Until recently the collection resided in the many windows of the DDA office near Kerrytown—but with the group's move to 150 South Fifth Avenue at the end of July, she'll no longer have space to display them. So Pollay is donating the collection to the Corner Brewery, a new brewpub in Ypsilanti. Pollay admits she'll miss some of the oddballs, like the Florida scene that appears to feature a dead fish. Her all-time favorite? A globe depicting Beijing's Mao Mausoleum—with real coins as the "snow."



Safety surprise: Some Ann Arbor home owners are getting an expensive shock when they submit plans for remodel-



ing projects: they're being required to retrofit the entire house for state-of-the-art smoke detection. That means a hardwired smoke alarm inside every bedroom and outside the sleeping area, and at least one on each floor of the house, all interconnected and with battery backup. The policy has actually been in effect for a couple of years, says building official Tony Savoni, but only this past April did state

law catch up to Ann Arbor's stringent interpretations.

Savoni couldn't say how many of the eighty to 180 building permits that cross his desk per month end up requiring the smoke alarm upgrade. Houses built after 1974 should already have hardwired alarms, he says, and the city building authority isn't requiring pre-1974 houses to be brought up to fire code unless a wall is opened. Are people dismayed to be hit with the extra expense, which can easily run \$200 per detector or more? Sometimes, says Savoni. Can they appeal? "Well," he says, "there's an appeals board, but unless they've got a proposal that will make their house even safer than code, they're not going to get far."

What a friend we have in Elvis:

The smell of old-fashioned men's grooming products was the first hint that something would be different about the service at First United Methodist Church's Green Wood location. For pre-sermon music, John Latini sang Greg Brown's "Jesus and Elvis." Then senior pastor Douglas Paterson introduced . . . Elvis, who greeted the crowd in slicked-back hair, muttonchop sideburns, custom-made shiny black suit, and red satin shirt. After tribute artist Chris Ayotte sang from Elvis's Grammy-winning gospel repertoire, Paterson began his sermon with a humorous comparison between the two "kings," found on the Internet ("Jesus lived in a state of grace in a Near Eastern land; Elvis lived in Graceland in a nearly eastern state"). The idea for the late-June service came from choir member Katie Geddes, a 1979 Huron grad who manages the church's coffeehouse acoustic-music series. Everyone who heard about the unusual service afterward asked what the sermon was about—but at the church picnic the next day, the women talked about Elvis's eyes. Paterson's topic: "Will the Real King Please Stand Up?"



What does it cost?

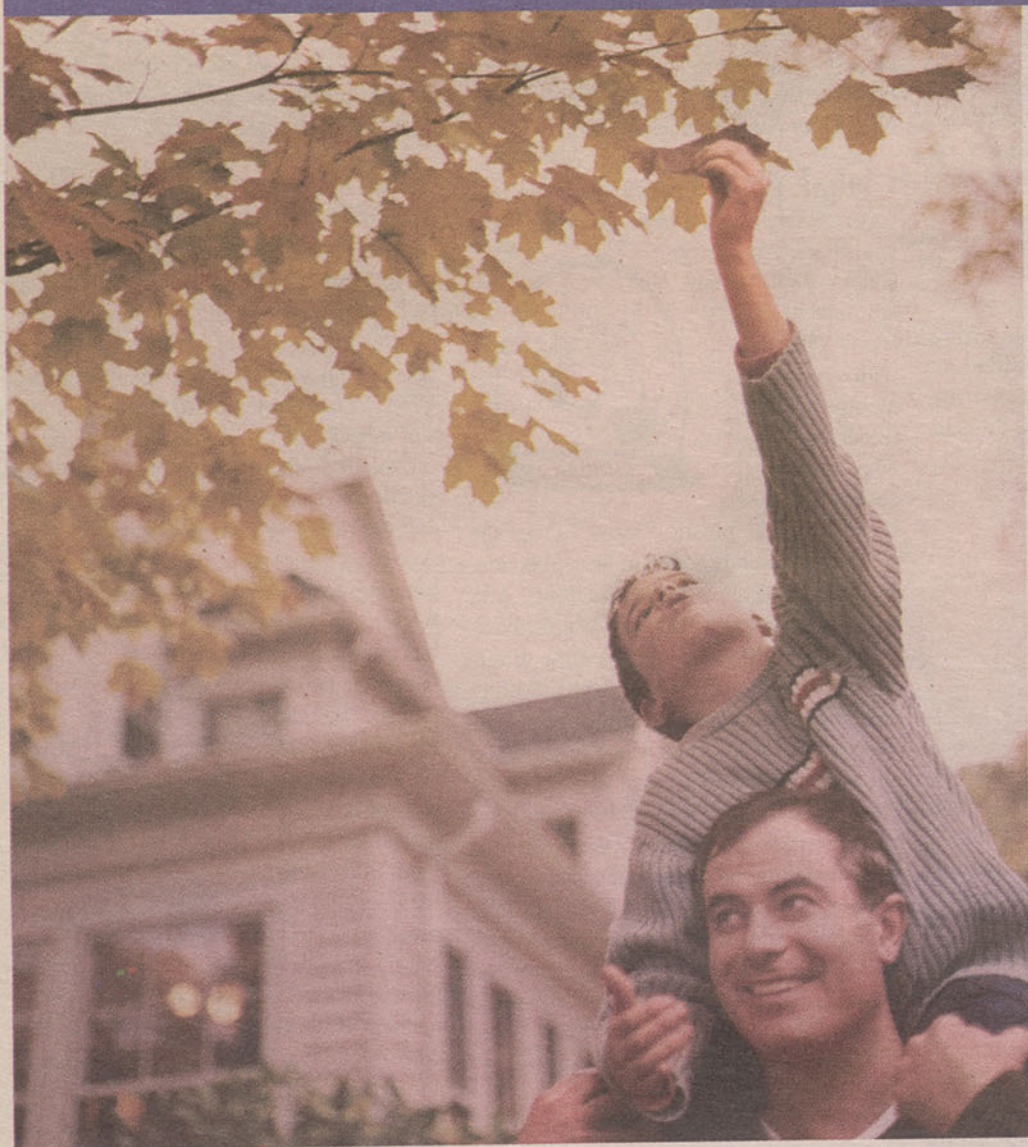
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Inside Ann Arbor

Pittsfield Recall

Wal-Mart has yet to move any dirt in Pittsfield Township—but township officials already are caught in a nasty mudslinging contest.

Ironically, Jim Walter and Christina Lirones were first elected in 2000 on an antidevelopment platform. Walter won reelection in 2004, while Lirones won the treasurer's position and Feliziana Meyer the clerk's seat. Now all three face recall on August 8 for failing to block a store on Michigan Avenue.

"I'm ashamed to be a Democrat in Pittsfield Township with these people in control," says Kristin Judge, an activist with Pittsfield Community First and Moms vs. Wal-Mart. "I mean, Democrats by nature should be fighting every Wal-Mart there is. And they're winning in many communities."

Wal-Mart's opponents cite safety and traffic concerns. The proposed shopping center at Michigan and State is near three schools—Harvest Elementary School, Saline High School, and Washtenaw Christian Academy—and the main entrance would face Campus Parkway, which serves as the main artery to all three schools. Judge points out that Moms vs. Wal-Mart has initiated a national campaign calling on the giant retailer to begin a new corporate policy of not building stores next to schools and residential neighborhoods (momsvswalmart.org). But, she says, Wal-Mart tends to pull out of communities only when the local government puts up some kind of legal roadblock.

The three recall targets claim their political opponents are playing on the passions of the anti-Wal-Mart folks and that the recall process has, in fact, very little to do with Wal-Mart and instead much to do with misleading smear tactics. (See their website, pittsfieldtruth.com.)

"Five of the people we ran against in 2004 are circulating petitions against us," Lirones says. "These people have been lying from the beginning, and they're lying now. It's just ridiculous."

Leading the recall effort are Gavin Clarkson and Glenn Tarcea, cofounders of A New Pittsfield. The group's website (anewpittsfield.org) says the recall drive was motivated by "excessive compensation and pension benefits, numerous false statements to township residents, and a general disdain for residents' concerns about a pending Wal-Mart store." (Two of the three accusations on the August ballot relate to Wal-Mart, while the third criticizes a pay raise the officials received.)

Although the Pittsfield Township Planning Commission denied Wal-Mart's first site plan in November 2002, the commission voted to approve a revised plan this past February. Wal-Mart opponents argue that if planning commission mem-



Pittsfield Township treasurer Christina Lirones, clerk Feliziana Meyer, and supervisor Jim Walter posed last fall at the Pittsfield Preserve. All three face a recall vote on August 8.

bers denied the retailer once, they can and should do so again. But Walter says such logic is based on ignorance and a misrepresentation of the facts.

"They [Wal-Mart] got turned down because they didn't meet our standards," he says. "When they met all our standards we had no basis for turning them down."

"A site plan cannot be denied as long as it's meeting all of our standards and ordinances," Lirones insists. "Not kind of be approved, or oughta be approved. It must be approved."

Judge, the anti-Wal-Mart crusader, says she's "so tired" of hearing that answer. "There are so many ways this township board could have made a difference in this Wal-Mart fight," she insists. "They have not even discussed any of the ordinances that we brought forth in a public meeting [to regulate the store's operations]—didn't even discuss them. . . . They want that Wal-Mart there. And the community does not. Therefore, they don't deserve to have their jobs anymore."

The recall has turned into a personal confrontation between two generations of antidevelopment activists. Walter, Lirones, and Meyer sued unsuccessfully to delay the vote, claiming fraud in the recall petitions. Proponents, meanwhile, were disappointed when a state police investigation failed to support Clarkson's claim that township officials had illegally used their offices—computers and employees—to fight the recall (Clarkson has since taken his case to the Michigan Secretary of State). And Lirones says she's had people "snooping" around her house, apparently in an attempt to try to catch her doing something wrong.

"They are using everything they can to smear us," Lirones says. "It's frivolous and it's cruel. We have families. We have lives. Our accomplishments speak for themselves."

"And we've done them without raising the millages," Walter adds. "And we still have surpluses. Everything we've done is a matter of public record—despite what these people are saying."

Oh! Studio 4

What's the real dress code at a downtown nightclub?

Studio 4's website, a slick, high-energy affair, promises mysteriously that "people will be dressed to the nines and everything in between." Yet that seems at odds with a touchingly crude homemade photo display on the brick wall outside the Fourth Avenue club: fading candid snapshots of people, many quite informally dressed, cavorting and grinning crookedly into the camera the way they might do in any other downtown bar.

So is there a dress code or not? One Friday night, Vic the doorman showed a reporter the printed cheat sheet he keeps tucked in a cubbyhole: no athletic wear, no hats or wave caps, no athletic shoes. Athletic wear, he said, means team jerseys and sweats.

Are jeans okay then? "Oh sure," Vic said. "Especially if you're wearing a nice top." In borderline cases, he says, he checks the shoes.

What's a wave cap?

"It's a, uh—how do I explain it? What's a wave cap?" he called out to a large, well-dressed black man standing a few feet farther outside, who was greeting people.

"A do-rag," he answered.

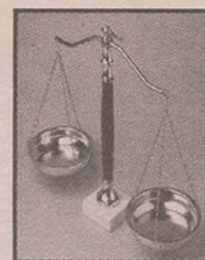
The conversation was slowing Vic down enough to attract the attention of his boss, Jeff Mangray, who is also his father. Jeff took over the interview so Vic could get back to work. The dress code, he said, fluctuates nightly, depending on the promoter's wishes.

Nearly every night, Studio 4 partners with some organization, business, or other group. The promoter takes care of the publicity and, after the DJ is paid, gets half the door receipts.

The night an Observer reporter was there, the promoter was the Ann Arbor Police Department. The crowd was well dressed: women in shiny, sparkly blouses

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Inside Ann Arbor continued

and heels, many men in suits. The promoter, Mangray said, can ratchet up or down on the dress code, and can also make a few other decisions, such as whether to admit eighteen-to-twenty-year-olds (braceleted so they can't order alcohol).

Ann Arbor has always been a militantly informal town, but it turns out that what the dress code is trying to head off is not so much hippies in Birkenstocks as the

kind of crowd that was at Triple C's on Eight Mile back in April when Proof got shot—hence the ban on wave caps. Jeans are fine, Mangray said—as long as the crotch isn't riding somewhere around the knees.

This is not Mangray's first gig dealing with the public on the subject of dress. Before coming to Ann Arbor, he managed a touring production of Oh! Calcutta on the East Coast, whose cast included Gennifer Flowers. But, claims Mangray, "she never undressed."

calls & letters

Borders responds

To the Observer:

As the senior vice-president of human resources for Borders Group, I sincerely understand and empathize with the feelings of employees whose jobs were eliminated at our company recently. Obviously, no one wants to let go many hard-working friends and associates despite the business necessity.

At Borders, we assessed all options before taking this step. Still, we were faced with the reality that our corporate overhead costs were outpacing sales growth and needed to be adjusted. We have an obligation to our employees, shareholders, and customers worldwide to manage the company appropriately for its long-term growth and sustainability.

Contrary to the Observer portrayal ("Eligible and Selected," Inside Ann Arbor, July), this very difficult process was implemented with care and concern for all employees. It was kept confidential not out of secrecy, but out of respect for employees so that they heard the news only from their supervisor in one-on-one meetings. Our severance policy provides one week of pay for each year of service to a maximum of twelve weeks. Also, each employee received an additional thirty days of pay and benefits continuation, which was not mentioned in your article. Borders is also providing access to career and job placement services.

We do not expect employees whose positions have been eliminated to be pleased, and we certainly do not believe that our company should be immune to criticism. At the same time, we do expect the Observer in its news coverage to be fair, balanced, and accurate. This story was not. Your readers and the many hard-working employees of Borders Group deserve better.

Sincerely,
Dan Smith

Remembering Miss Shearer

To the Observer:

Reading James Ronald Brown's "A Lady in Waiting" [July] about Miss Marie Shearer of 1410 Hill Street was a

delight, not only because it was very well written but also because I, too, had the privilege of living at 1410 and being one of Marie Shearer's boys (1951-52). Mr. Brown's account is very much the way I remember it from my time there, but I would like to add three bits of information from the vantage point of ten years earlier.

First, in 1945, Miss Shearer phoned the University of Michigan to say she would be glad to welcome returning veterans to live in her home as her way of saying a thank-you for their service to our country. When her friend Gretchen Wolaver (who lived at 1310 Hill Street) phoned to recommend me, Marie asked, "Was he in the service?" When Gretchen replied that yes, I had been in the navy, Marie said, "Good, he can come live here."

Second, Miss Shearer's drinking habits must have changed in the ten years after I lived there. Her drink of choice in the early fifties was an old-fashioned made with (and only with) Park & Tilford Reserve. She also said to me several times (and I do firmly believe it) that she did not drink alone, that the conversation over the glass was more important than what was in it.

Third, Marie had a bridge buddy named Mrs. Mabel Lloyd, whose claim to Ann Arbor fame was that she owned the only electric car in town. When Mrs. Lloyd drove to the Hill Street home to pick Marie up for a bit of bridge, Marie would walk down the path leading to the sidewalk, and just before she climbed into the electric car, she would do an about-face and wave, knowing I would be peering out of my third-floor window watching the arrival and departure of the car.

I have often thought how splendid it would be if we could arrange a reunion of all the students who lived in her lovely Victorian home. We could spend the weekend sharing our Marie Shearer stories.

Sincerely,
The Rev. Lewis W. Towler

P.S. Until I read Mr. Brown's account listing Mr. Durkee as Miss Shearer's favorite, I thought I had that honor. I do not mind, however, being replaced. Living there for a year was honor enough.



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Inside Ann Arbor continued

Kitchen Chick's Foodie Passions

An Ann Arbor blogger has
drawn a global following.

Kitchen Chick's community includes the Food Goat, Accidental Hedonist, and Domestic Goddess. They may drop by Chez Pim from time to time, try Cooking for Engineers, or simply Nosh with the Hungry Tiger after checking the Food Porn Watch.

Food blogs—culinary web diaries posted by everyone from celebrity chefs to ordinary eaters—can carry you from Prague to Kuala Lumpur. For a local culinary focus, though, check out Ann Arbor's Kitchen Chick (kitchenchick.com). Although she's not coy about her real name and isn't hard to find, she does like to keep a low profile, so we'll just call her by her initials, L.L.

L.L., who is in her thirties and works for the U-M Health System, says she's been on the Internet for a long time. When she decided to "play around with the



Blogger, photographer, and Asian studies grad, L.L. combines her passions at Great Lake Chinese Seafood Restaurant.

blog," it was only natural that she combine her interests in food and cooking to start Kitchen Chick. The site, launched in April 2004, explores recipes, kitchen gadgets, cookbooks (L.L. and husband Joe have more than 200), Ann Arbor food events, restaurant reviews, links, and the occasional digression on dealing with mice (hers, apparently, are untroubled by her seventeen-year-old cats).

Kitchen Chick has a distinctly different restaurant-review turf from that staked out by Ann Arbor's other notable food blogger, the Ulterior Epicure, who was recently profiled in the *Detroit Free Press*. He aims for far-off, pricey, Michelin-starred

Anyone seen the mayor?



**The mayor's next train party:
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establishments. In contrast, Kitchen Chick haunts primarily local ethnic joints. Recent posts have detailed her visits to Cherry Blossom, Arirang, and Ypsilanti's Taco Boy, with delicious food details and mouthwatering photos. L.L. is working on an associate degree in photography from Washtenaw Community College, to go with her bachelor's in Asian studies and master's in public policy, both from the U-M. Though reluctant to name a single favorite restaurant, she does allow that she never tires of the Red Sea in Ypsilanti and that she and Joe are big fans of Great Lake Chinese Seafood Restaurant.

Kitchen Chick gets e-mail from all over the world, particularly when she posts recipes. Though the global food-blogging community includes famous chefs like Alton Brown and Jamie Oliver, the movement is driven, she says, by the "fan-based food bloggers like me who are

just out there blogging because we love food. I don't get paid to do any of this, and I don't ask for any discount [from restaurants she visits]."

In addition to eating out several nights a week, L.L. and Joe regularly cook for friends at their 150-year-old house midway between Ann Arbor and Saline. And she and other virtual foodies actually sit down together for a real meal from time to time. In August she plans to join other participants in egullet.com's Heartland Forum for their third annual gathering of midwesterners. After so much virtual interaction, she says, "it's exciting to meet face to face."

Elrushbo, Mrs. Devil Kitty, and Fat Guy will likely be there too, but Ulterior Epicure posted his regrets. He wrote that he's leaving Ann Arbor and "will be on the other side of the globe" by August.

question corner

Q: Why did the city install a fire hydrant on the new pathway around Argo Pond? Are they afraid the path will catch fire?

A: There's no connection between the hydrant and the pathway, though they were put in at somewhat the same time. A twenty-inch water main running near the path serves one-third of the city. Remember when there was a directive to boil water last year? That was because this main broke.

When a break occurs, the line must be drained for repairs. In the past a hydrant on Main Street was used to drain the line, but that caused flooding in a nearby building. The new hydrant solves the problem.

Q: What the heck are those purple things to the left of Ann Arbor-Saline Road just before you cross I-94 going toward Target? When I ask my husband, he tells me they're to scare away the elephants—and then he says, "See? They're working."

A: The purple boxes at the interchange and elsewhere were installed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. They are bug detectors used to track the spread of the emerald ash borer.

Q: One night last spring, I tried to park on Fletcher Street. All the street meters were covered with orange bags—and all the spaces were being used by parking valets working a campus event. How can a private company take over what would otherwise be free parking?

A: Under a long-standing city policy, Republic Parking rents bags that can be used to temporarily privatize any city meter; they cost \$15 for twenty-four hours. During business hours a bagged space may be occupied only by commercial vehicles, and the police will tow violators. But they often don't enforce the commercial-vehicle rule after hours—creating a loophole big enough for a valet to drive an Escalade through.

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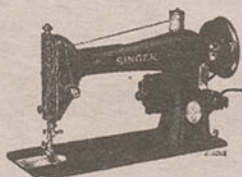
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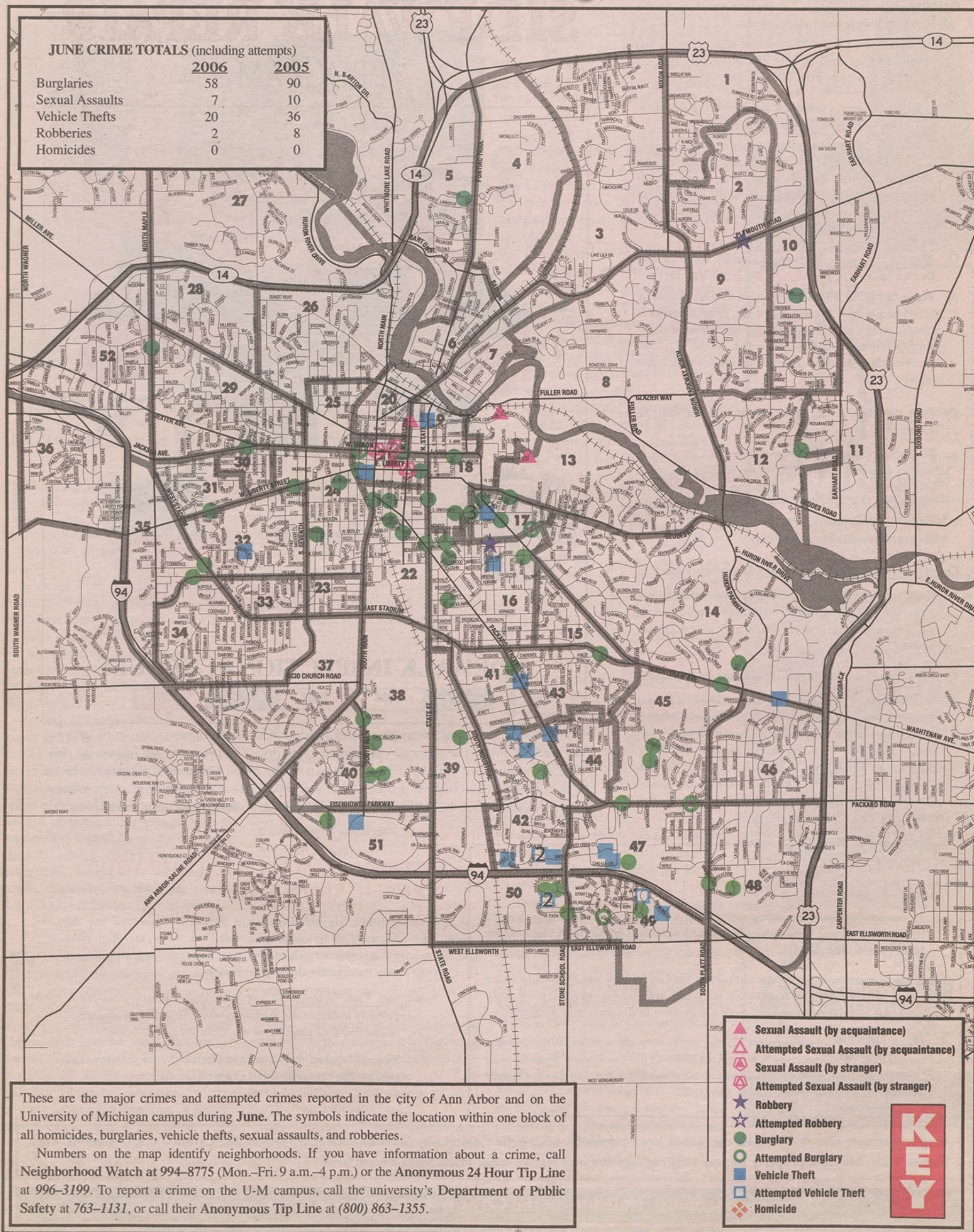


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CrimeMap

JUNE CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2006	2005
Burglaries	58	90
Sexual Assaults	7	10
Vehicle Thefts	20	36
Robberies	2	8
Homicides	0	0



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: Whose responsibility is it to maintain and repair the public sidewalks and walkways?

A: Per City Code, Chapter 49, Section 4:58, all sidewalks within the City shall be kept and maintained in good repair by the owner of the adjacent land.

Q: How do I report a sidewalk that needs repair? How can I check if my sidewalk needs repair?

A: You simply talk with the City's Customer Service Center at (734) 994-2818. This call will trigger a request to the Technical Services Unit for a sidewalk inspection. If repairs are needed, the City will notify the property owner by letter of the specific requirements to bring the sidewalk into compliance.

Q: What if the sidewalk damage appears to be caused by tree roots?

A: Please call (734) 994-2818 to initiate an inspection by a staff person from forestry and/or the Technical Services Unit to see if a problematic root can be removed without endangering the stability and health of the tree. The property owner is still responsible for the sidewalk repair costs.

Q: Why doesn't the City make the repairs and bill the owners?

A: When contractor's perform work for the City there is additional costs for the contractor for Bonding, Insurance and the requirement to pay prevailing wages. Based on our Customer Service Survey we found the average cost for a 4" slab for homeowner's in 2005 was \$130. The City cost for a 4" slab in 2005 was at least \$170

Q: If I don't make the repairs what will the City charge me?

A: The City will make the repairs and pass on all associated costs. In 2005, that would have been a minimum of \$170 per slab plus project costs, which were \$225 per address.

Q: Why doesn't the City find the contractor for the owner?

A: Based on our Customer Service Survey we have implemented a Contractor Pre-Qualification process. The contractors on the list will be instructed by the City on the procedures of sidewalk repair within the City of Ann Arbor. Contractors will also be rated on their performance by the City and the Customer Service Survey. The ratings will allow us to remove or add contractors based on City and owner experiences.

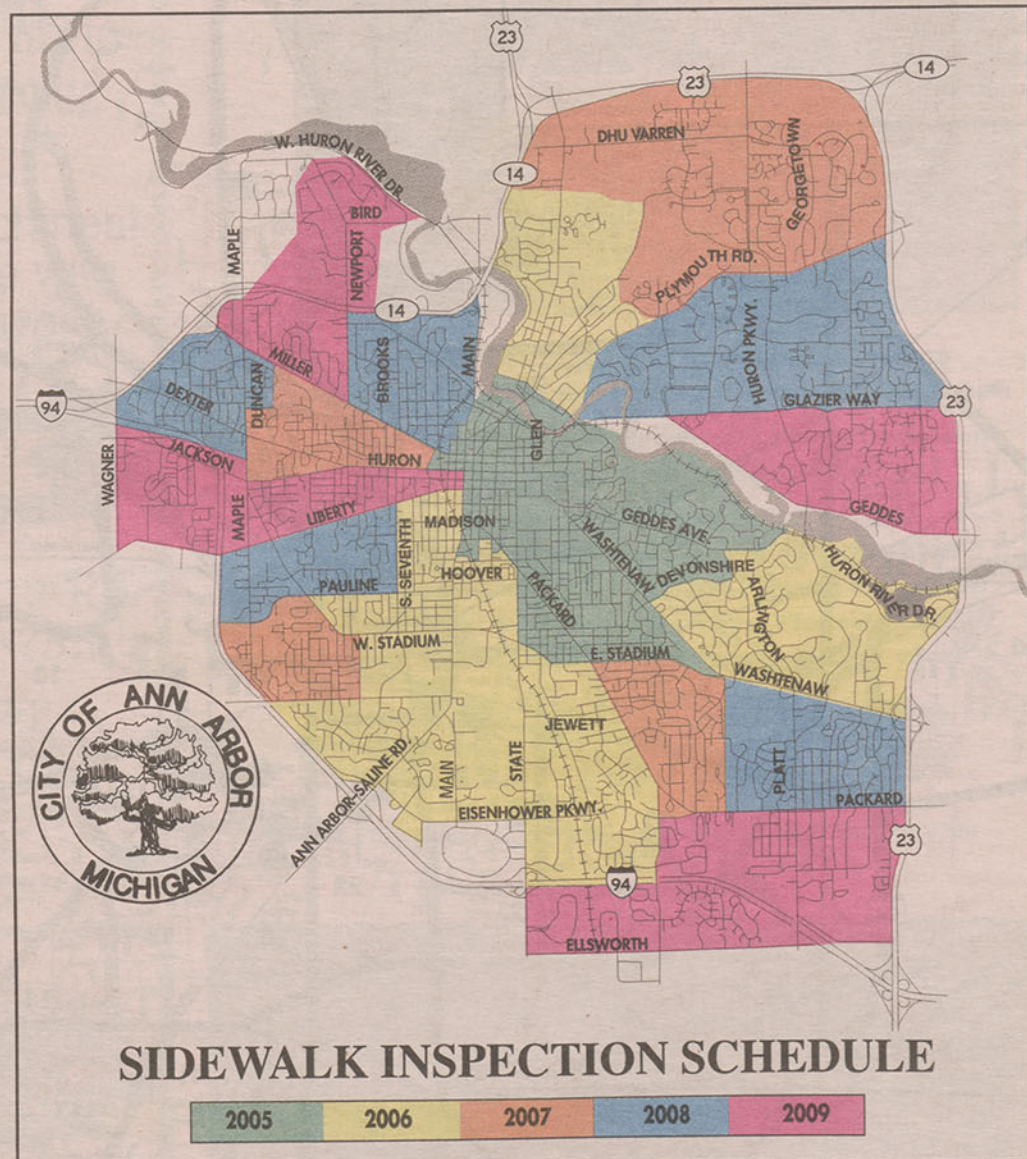
SIDEWALK REPAIR & REPLACEMENT PROCEDURES:

1. Property owners or contractors may obtain the specifications and standards for sidewalk repair from the City's **Community Services Area, located on the Sixth Floor of City Hall, 100 N. Fifth Avenue.**
2. If you plan to do the repair yourself, contact the Community Services Area to obtain a right-of-way permit to work within the public right of way 48 hours prior to the work; you must submit certified proof of insurance in the amount of \$100,000.
3. If you plan to have a contractor do the work, have them obtain a right-of-way permit from the Community Services Area 48 hours prior to starting work. In order to be granted the permit, the contractor must submit a certified proof of public liability insurance in the amount of \$500,000.

Property owners may verify that a contractor has a permit by calling the Community Services Area at (734) 994-2674 at least one day before work begins. Hint: Multiple property owners working together may receive lower prices from a contractor.

More information is available on the City's website at: www.a2gov.org/sidewalk

CITY OF ANN ARBOR SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM



The City of Ann Arbor has implemented an annual sidewalk repair program to improve the walk-ability of the sidewalks throughout the City. The program will inspect all sidewalks in accordance with the schedule shown on the map. The annual program does not eliminate the citizen request procedure. If you would like to make an inspection request, you may call (734) 994-2818 or send an e-mail to: Sidewalkrepair@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us

THREE REASONS TO REPAIR YOUR PUBLIC SIDEWALK:

1. Children, the elderly, and the physically challenged use our sidewalks daily. Poorly maintained sidewalks carry high risks for injury. Your help is appreciated to make sure all residents may travel safely along our sidewalks.
2. City Code (chapters 47 and 49) requires property owners to properly maintain the sidewalks and public walkways adjacent to or abutting their property for use by the public.
3. Properly maintained sidewalks decrease your liability and enhance the overall aesthetic image of our City.

Ann Arborites

GRIFIN LINDSAY



Sportscaster Mike Tirico

A calm presence on Monday Night Football

This fall, when Hank Williams Jr. screams to millions of ESPN viewers, "Are you ready for some football?" you get the sense that Mike Tirico will respond with a calm, assured "Absolutely."

In an age when bombast, glitz, and invented controversy define broadcasting in the United States, Tirico's old-school "just the facts, ma'am" competence has landed him one of the most high-profile spots in American television: he's the new host and play-by-play announcer for *Monday Night Football*.

A native of Queens, New York, Tirico moved to Ann Arbor seven years ago. As a play-by-play announcer for a variety of sports on ESPN and ABC, he can live wherever he wants—his workplace is wherever that week's game is. Living here has two advantages: his wife grew up in Trenton, and Detroit Metro Airport is just down the road. Still, Tirico came to Ann Arbor cold. "Like a lot of outsiders," he recalls, "I didn't know there was a community here in addition to the university."

Tirico is greeted by name when he strolls into the Starbucks at State and Liberty. Though he's wearing an ESPN polo shirt, he's welcomed as a regular, not a celebrity—the barista asks whether he'll have his usual. The barrel-chested thirty-nine-year-old didn't play sports in high school or college, but he's built like a fullback—squat and muscular—and looks more imposing in person than on screen.

Tirico's big break came early. He majored in political science and broadcast journalism at Syracuse University, "significantly influenced" by the school's record of producing topflight sportscasters, such as NBC's Bob Costas. He

worked at the CBS affiliate in Syracuse for a few years and then sent a tape to ESPN. They told him to wait a year. Nine months later, he mailed the network a second tape—and landed a national sportscasting job at age twenty-four.

Tirico spent several years anchoring ESPN's *SportsCenter* highlight show. Then he shifted to primarily play-by-play

Tirico's old-school "just the facts, ma'am" competence has landed him one of the most high-profile spots in American television: he's the new host and play-by-play announcer for Monday Night Football.

duties, covering golf, college football, and other sports for ESPN and its Walt Disney Corporation sibling, ABC Sports. At last year's Super Bowl in Detroit, he anchored pregame coverage and presided over the postgame trophy presentation.

Tirico's steady demeanor has been an asset in a highly competitive business. Asked whether any particularly glaring on-air flubs come to mind, he says, "I am lucky to have survived staying off most bloopers during my career."

The move away from the Connecticut-based *SportsCenter* meant that Tirico and his wife, Debbie (then a Wall Street executive and now a stay-at-home mom), could leave the Big Apple and move closer to Debbie's family.

Today, he's a Tree Town booster. He

likes the city's diversity and appreciates that "not everyone looks the same. That's true of some big cities, but not [usually] one of this size." He enjoys strolling the U-M Diag. "At some point in my life," he predicts, "I'll get on campus" teaching sports journalism.

Neutral on the air, off camera he's a fan of Michigan athletics, and he counts basketball coach Tommy Amaker and football coach Lloyd Carr among his friends. But Tirico is far more a fan of a well-played game or well-run program than he is of any one team.

"The worst part of sports is we no longer appreciate the other team," Tirico says. You get the sense he's grateful that as a play-by-play announcer he just calls the action of a game and can avoid the loud debates over whether a particular coach or player is the greatest thing since sliced bread or an embarrassment to his sport—with no middle ground.

Tirico's understated style in the broadcast booth is matched by his modesty about his work. "It's not that hard a job," he says. "If you have no shtick, you do your job, set up your analysts, you can drop just about anyone into that slot."

The best game to call, he says, is one where action on the field is exciting enough that the announcer is superfluous: "Thirty-eight to thirty-seven, decided on a last-minute play—you just breathe and get out of the way." A well-called game, he says, is one in which the viewer doesn't notice the announcer.

This fall Tirico is anchoring a three-person team that includes former Notre Dame and Washington Redskins quarterback Joe Theismann and the latest "fresh voice" in the broadcast booth, Tony Kornheiser. Kornheiser is a *Washington Post* sports columnist and cohost of a show on ESPN in which he and fellow *Post* columnist Michael Wilbon good-naturedly argue about a roster of sports topics. Tirico's less-is-more approach will provide calm at the center of the *Monday Night Football* storm.

Between broadcasts, Tirico will be ensconced in Ann Arbor with Debbie and their two school-age children. He enjoys dining on Main Street, attending the occasional Michigan basketball game, browsing at Borders. The last book he read was Thomas L. Friedman's *The World Is Flat*, and he is more likely to listen to NPR than to sports talk radio.

Still, he's got a healthy respect for sports that mirrors his affection for Ann Arbor. "There aren't that many things in the world that bring people together, white and black, rich and poor, young and old. When you look around Michigan Stadium and see all kinds of different people cheering and high-five-ing the same thing—find me some other avenue that provides that. Maybe music."

—Phil D'Anieri

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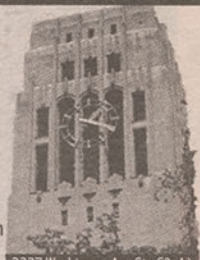
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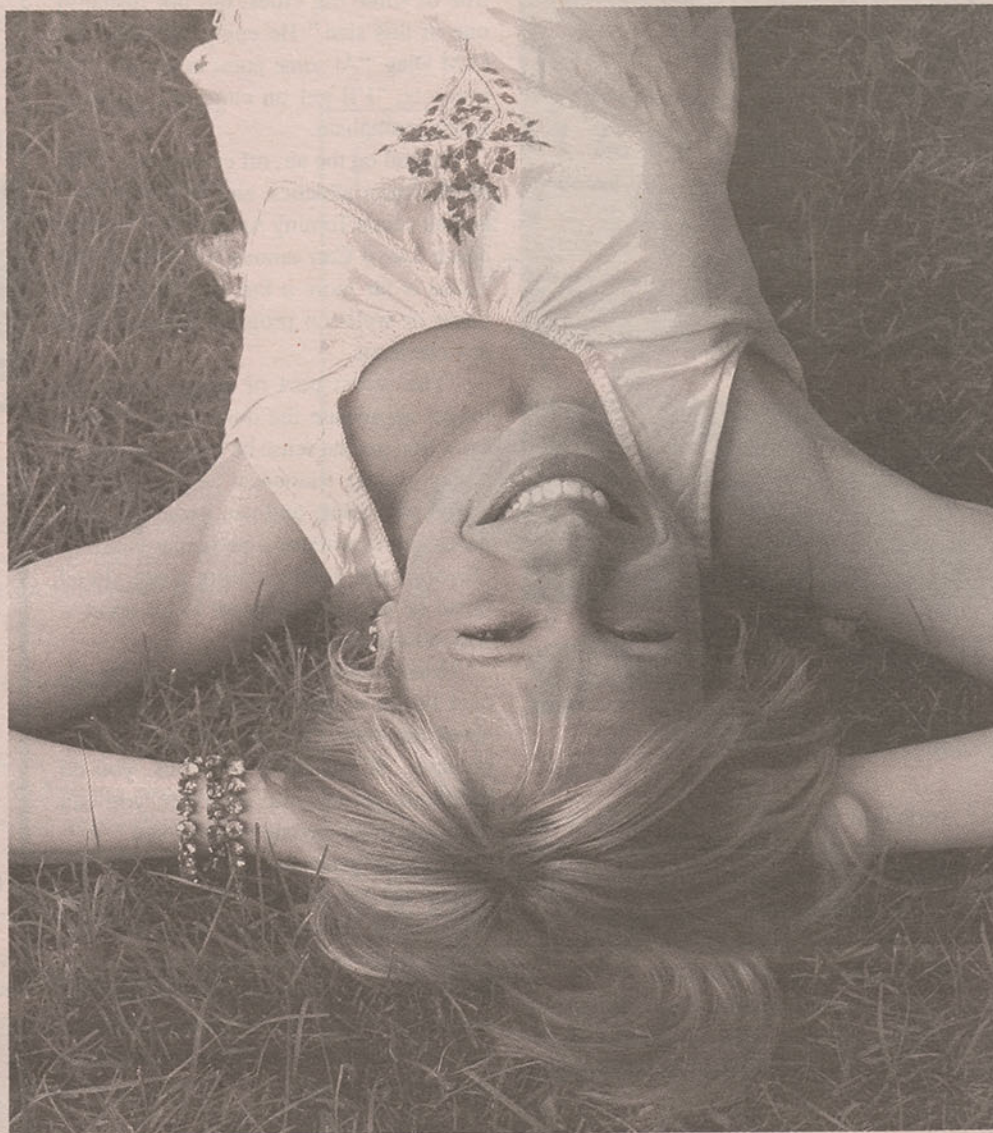


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MINORITY RULE

Forget the November election.

In the city and county, the vote that matters is the August 8 primary.

by Eve Silberman

Most Ann Arborites skip local elections, and hardly any bother with party primaries. But anyone who misses this year's August 8 primary hoping for a choice in November is in for a rude surprise.

Ann Arbor Republicans aren't fielding a single candidate in the city general election—so the Democratic primary is residents' only chance to determine the next mayor and council. In neighboring Pittsfield Township, three top officials face a recall vote (see Inside Ann Arbor, p. 11).

Meanwhile, a well-organized slate of challengers is trying to take over Washtenaw County. Public safety taxes are on the ballot across the county. And two rising young Democrats are competing to represent Ann Arbor in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Ann Arbor: surprise challenge

Mayor John Hieftje denies that Wendy Woods's primary challenge has upset him. "It surprised me," he says of the Fifth Ward councilwoman's announcement that she would oppose him for the Democratic mayoral nomination.

The most active mayor since Republican Lou Belcher a quarter century ago, Hieftje, fifty-five, is in the thick of several ambitious projects. He's issued what he calls the "mayor's green energy challenge," which aims to have the city using 30 percent renewable energy by 2010. He's pushed for a commuter rail system, recently taking a well-publi-

cized train ride with sixty politicians and government leaders. And he's been at the center of ongoing efforts to promote more housing downtown.

Though a real estate agent by profession, Hieftje hasn't sold a house himself since 2002. He lives on the \$40,000-a-year mayor's salary, plus his pay from teaching a class at the U-M. (His wife, Kathryn Goodson, is a professional pianist and freelance teacher at the U-M and EMU; Hieftje has one grown son from a previous marriage.)

Hieftje, who had championed Woods's appointment to council in 2001, wasn't the only Democrat caught off guard. None of her council colleagues is supporting Woods. Second Ward rep Joan Lowenstein describes Woods as effective and conscientious, but she says she doesn't perceive any difference between the councilwoman and the mayor on "substantive" issues.

Interestingly enough, neither does Woods. A U-M administrator with a graduate degree in natural resources, she acknowledges that she has not, for example, initiated many agenda items (her most prominent resolution was to condemn the war in Iraq). But she says she shows leadership in other ways—in her community involvement and in her work on the energy committee and other council committees, which she implies has been underestimated.

An Ann Arbor resident for thirty-five years, Woods, fifty-seven, is a longtime volunteer in organizations ranging from the University Musical Society to the Ecology Center. She's also been active in her church, Second Baptist, and in several African American organizations. Married to lawyer Ron Woods, the acting head of EMU's African American studies department, she's the mother of five grown children.

Woods implies that council does not welcome new ideas—or new blood. She says that when she expressed interest in the largely ceremonial position of mayor pro tem, she was told, "Chris [Easthope] wants it."

In three mayoral campaigns Hieftje has yet to lose a single precinct in a general election; ordinarily he would seem a shoo-in for renomination. But the typical turnout in August primaries is so low—perhaps 5,000 to 6,000 citywide—that a Woods upset can't be ruled out.

Two city council representatives also face primary challenges on August 8. And three newcomers are vying for the seat being vacated by retiring member Jean Carlberg.

In the **First Ward**, incumbent **John Roberts** was appointed last September to replace Kim Groome, who abruptly left the area. Groome was the most outspoken



John Roberts, who was appointed to replace Kim Groome last fall, faces energetic Deanian Ron Suarez in the First Ward.

person on council, in contrast to Roberts, who is seldom heard at council meetings—a characteristic for which some First Warders have criticized him. "I'm just learning everything," he protests—and says he anticipates being much more vocal in the future.

A lifelong Ann Arbor resident who's now a mortgage banker, Roberts, thirty-nine, says that if elected he'll concentrate on labor and budget issues. "Numbers interest me," he says. Firmly opposed to raising taxes, he says that the "best thing for the city is to create, as I like to refer to it, 'smart growth.' . . . We need to create a better tax base—places for people to live in the city, shop in the city."

Roberts says that he spends about 30 percent of his time assisting constituents and has met with groups on issues such as historic preservation. He would not support a height limit on new downtown buildings, as some Democrats have suggested, and offers qualified support for the controversial Broadway Village project in his ward—he says the city needs "to make sure it's a financially sound deal, and that the bonds will be paid back through the real estate and the taxes. We're monitoring that situation very closely."

Though Roberts has the support of the mayor and his fellow council representatives, he faces a breathtakingly energetic opponent. **Ron Suarez**, fifty-six, grew up poor in Spanish Harlem, earned a Ph.D. in psychology from the U-M, taught briefly, and then reinvented himself as a software entrepreneur. He readily volunteers that he made more than \$1 million from the sale of a small company he started. He is now doing software work for independent record labels.

Suarez writes in his weblog that his home in the Old Fourth Ward was the Howard Dean campaign's "unofficial Ann Arbor headquarters" in 2004; he's now on the steering committee of the Dean campaign's local off-

Woods implies that council does not welcome new ideas—or new blood. She says that when she expressed interest in becoming mayor pro tem, she was told, "Chris [Easthope] wants it."



PHOTOS: J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

Fifth Ward councilwoman Wendy Woods surprised mayor John Hieftje—and a lot of other local Democrats—when she announced she would challenge him in the August 8 primary.

RAISING THE BAR

\$2 MILLION Pledged to Local Non-Profits

MINORITY RULE
continued

Many local, non-profit organizations are finding support from Todd's Services, Inc.'s (TSI's) **Give Back to the Community Program (GBC)**. The response has been so well received that TSI has raised their pledge from **One Million Dollars** to **TWO Million Dollars**. The TWO Million Dollars will continue to support local, non-profit organizations over the next few years.

TSI's **Give Back to the Community Program** has been very successful to date, donating over \$400,000 to local, non-profit organizations. Approaching the half-way mark to one million dollars, TSI met last week to consider the longevity of the program. The owners of TSI reviewed a large stack of thank you notes and discussed the numerous calls from local organizations expressing their need for the program to continue. After much consideration, TSI decided to double their pledge to **TWO Million Dollars**. Todd LaButte, co-owner of TSI stated, "The appreciation from the non-profit organizations has been so rewarding that we have decided to double our commitment to help support the community." Kurt LaButte, co-owner of TSI commented, "We have met so many wonderful people through this program and we know that the many non-profits in our community is what makes it such a great place to live. We want to continue supporting them."

For TSI, the **Give Back to the Community Program** has helped them achieve record sales in 2006, and for that Todd and Kurt would like to say thank you for your patronage. The increased sales have allowed TSI to support the community with donations to local non-profits. Organization managers have expressed that they feel the success of the program has been TSI's price guarantee. Local, non-profits are able to bring their supporters and members their best value on landscaping and at the same time generate donations for their organization. It's a win-win for everyone! If TSI is not a customer's best value on their landscaping project, TSI will give the customer 10% of their bid in cash.

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This is how the Give Back to the Community Program works: When Todd's Services, Inc. landscapes a project, they donate 3% of the job total (up to \$600 max.) to the local, non-profit organization of the customer's choice. All local, non-profit organizations qualify including: schools, churches, fundraisers, sports teams, subdivisions, and many more.

If you are involved with a non-profit organization, and would like your organization to receive money - **more money is now available**. Contact Todd's Services regarding the **Give Back to the Community Program** at (810) 231-2778 or visit them on their website at:

www.toddsservices.com



Dick Lawrence (Pilot) of Kid's Wings prepares to fly Dawn and her son Logan to a distant treatment facility. Kid's Wings provides free air transportation to those in financial need and in medical need of treatment at distant facilities and for whom commercial air transportation is either unaffordable or impractical.

Dick Lawrence wrote, "I would like to thank Todd's Services for your contribution of \$582.69 to Kid's Wings in the past few weeks. This contribution makes you a part of our effort by helping make these flights possible."



Brighton Lions Community Den receives \$272.78.



Hamburg Elementary School receives \$406.10.



Hamburg Twp. Historical Museum receives \$191.00.



Doug Murphy of TSI Donates a check of \$4,234.65 to the Humane Society of Huron Valley.



Last Chance Rescue receives \$972.80.



Pinckney Community Education receives \$1,035.78.

shoot, Democracy for Washtenaw. Suarez acknowledges he may not have much time to deal with calls on problems like "The neighbor's dog pooped on my lawn," but says he will try to hold open weekly meetings for constituents. His campaign emphasizes his progressive politics and his business savvy. Suarez says he would not support a height limit of four stories, as was suggested at recent Democratic meetings, but he might consider a limit on buildings taller than that.

Suarez says that he could help the city save money on its software and that he could successfully advocate for new high-tech businesses. Insisting he is not "anti-development," he maintains, nonetheless, that the city is moving too fast and not listening enough to its citizens. He opposes Broadway Village and supports a petition drive that's seeking a public vote on the bonds the city would issue to finance public improvements there. "I don't think that subsidizing an East Lansing developer with forty million dollars for Lower Town is a good thing, and I'd like to put this to the voters," he says.

In the **Third Ward**, three candidates are competing to replace Jean Carlberg, who's stepping down after twelve years and who declines to endorse a replacement.

A lifelong Ann Arborite, **Stephen Kunselman**, forty-three, has an M.A. in urban planning. After working as an environmental planner and then township manager in Sumpter Township, he is currently employed as energy management liaison at the U-M's plant operations department.

Kunselman has a special interest in trying to reestablish "neighborhood-based" recreation programs, and is concerned that current programs are too expensive for many kids. He opposes mandatory height limits on new buildings, saying those decisions need to be made individually.

Jeff Meyers, forty-one, moved to Ann Arbor from Portland, Oregon, two years ago when his physician wife started working for the U-M Hospitals. With a bachelor's degree in microbiology, Meyers was a researcher before "trading science for the arts and becoming a creative director and freelance writer." He emphasizes his flexible schedule, which, he says, will give him a lot of time to work on council and constituent issues.

Meyers says he would like to transport some ideas from Portland to Ann Arbor. He mentions programs that require building projects to include public art and a company that allows people to rent cars by the hour. Meyers is opposed to a height limit for buildings, saying, "It's not so much height as how they're constructed."

Alice Ralph, fifty-five, has lived in Ann Arbor for thirty years and is a self-employed architect. A leader in the recent successful campaign to save Dexter's historic Gordon Hall, Ralph complains that council seems to be speaking in one voice and not representing different points of view in the community. She took part in

discussions leading to the Calthorpe Associates downtown planning report, but she says, "People feel it was a validation of something already decided."

Ralph attended city Democratic meetings this past spring, where participants expressed frustration over what they saw as a too rapid pace of downtown development. She says the city should "look closely at" the question of a height limit.

Fifth Ward incumbent Chris Easthope, thirty-nine, is probably the best-known council member after Mayor Hieftje. As mayor pro tem, he's worked closely with Hieftje, and he strongly defends council's approach to building downtown, calling charges that the Calthorpe process was less than democratic "ridiculous." He's opposed to a height cap beyond that already provided by an area's zoning. Still, the two men do not always agree: Easthope sponsored an unsuccessful proposal to donate three city properties downtown to the proposed greenway, a step the mayor opposed. Easthope also says he doesn't share the mayor's optimism that many downtown residents will rely on buses and bikes, reducing the need for parking structures.

A lifelong Ann Arborite, Easthope emphasizes achievements that range from negotiating a resolution to the South University art fair dispute several years ago to redoing a traffic-calming program. He cosponsored legislation to expand Ann Arbor's recycling program, and successfully sponsored a change that required developers to seek approval before changing design plans they'd presented.

Richard Ankli, sixty-three, is running a limited campaign. Trained as an engineer and a nurse, he has run unsuccessfully for library board and, more than thirty years ago, for city council on the former Human Rights Party ticket. He says he has recently been attending council meetings, and he thinks the mayor is doing a "good job." Ankli says he "tends not to like" tall buildings, and recalls that there was controversy when Tower Plaza was built in the 1960s—at the time, he says, "people said there shouldn't be any buildings taller than Burton Tower."

The current council's strongest critic is candidate **Sonia Schmerl**, forty-seven. A U-M administrator with a mas-



Jeff Meyers, Alice Ralph, and Stephen Kunselman all hope to succeed the retiring Jean Carlberg in Ward 3.

ter's in public health, Schmerl promotes a "real greenway now" on her lawn signs. Her campaign literature charges that city council members are "pursuing a radical scheme to maximize development, rather than working to enhance our community's quality of life."

A longtime member of the Old West Side Association and a former historic district commission member, Schmerl was a leader in opposing a proposed parking structure at First and William—an effort that morphed into the "greenway" proposal to turn that site and two other pieces of city-owned downtown property into parks. Though Easthope introduced the resolution to set the properties aside, Schmerl charges that he did so just to appease Fifth Ward activists. "Chris has done nothing to distance himself from the rest of council," she says. "People who support me want to change the course Ann Arbor is going."

The county: COPS attack

"There could be an earthquake on the county board this election," remarks one former commissioner. Whatever the outcome, a lot of people will be feeling the aftershocks.

For the past year, the county board of commissioners has been locked in battle with outlying townships over the cost of sheriff's patrols. Most townships reluctantly signed new contracts last December that will raise the cost of a deputy by 75 percent over five years (Observer, March). A handful of holdouts, led by Ypsilanti Township, sued and lost; they now face an August deadline to accept the new contract or face service cuts.

The communities that accepted the new rates, meanwhile, are already looking to pass the increase on to their residents. In the August 8 election, six townships are asking voters to increase public safety funding. The biggest requests, in Ann Arbor and Scio townships, would raise property taxes in those communities by 2 mills. If approved, the changes would cost the owner of a \$250,000 home an extra \$250 a year in taxes.

The conflict has gotten bitter and personal, but at bottom, it's about priorities. The townships see policing as an essential county service and resent the price increases. Commissioners from communities with their own police



Sonia Schmerl says Fifth Ward rep Chris Easthope (center) is too friendly to development. Richard Ankli (left) also is running.

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MINORITY RULE

continued

forces are more concerned about expanding the badly overcrowded jail—and see no reason to subsidize policing in the townships.

Now the battle is moving to the ballot box: most of the thirty candidates seeking county commission seats on August 8 are township residents angry over the patrol issue. (There are eleven commissioners; the seven races covered here are those that touch the Observer's circulation area. Democrat Jeff Irwin is running unopposed in southeast Ann Arbor's District 11.)

A political action committee named Citizens Organized for Public Safety (COPS) held a June fund-raiser at Wiard's Orchards to support the dissidents. The clever acronym has the stamp of Chuck Ream, the Scio Township trustee who led the previous battles over the jail. But with Ream busy running for Congress (he's seeking the seat now held by Republican Joe Schwarz), incumbent commissioners suspect Ypsilanti Township officials are leading the group. Township clerk Brenda Stumbo says that's not the case.

Recently, the commissioners have split seven to four over police funding. So if the challengers can pick up two votes, they can reverse the board's decision and maintain the existing subsidy for police services—if they can find the money to do so. Depending on who looks where for funding, the outcome of the August 8 primaries could potentially affect everything from cuts in human services to whether the long-needed new jail will ever materialize.

District 1. Here two Democrats are competing to take on a strong Republican incumbent, Mark Ouimet, who opposed the patrol price increases.

A lawyer and lifelong resident of Chelsea, **Frank Grohnert**, forty-eight, is chair of the Western Washtenaw Democrats. He's also president of the board of Faith in Action, a Chelsea-based agency that helps people in need. Grohnert declares that "police protection and personal security are basic responsibilities of county government" but also says there aren't any "magic, easy solutions." He emphasizes regional environmental planning and early childhood education.



Eric Borregard, fifty, is a graphic designer who recently moved to Dexter from Oakland County. A self-described "progressive" who emphasizes campaign finance reform, Borregard says the solution to the public safety controversy is to have "more local townships and villages create their own local police departments."



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the shadow of the sheriff conflict couldn't be more obvious: the Democratic challenger is one of the attorneys who represented the holdout townships. No Republican has filed, so the primary winner takes all.

Incumbent **Martha Kern-Boprie**, a U-M accountant and former treasurer of Superior Township, defends the county's decision to pass on more of the cost of police services, saying, "I do believe we have come up with a fair distribution of police dollars." But Kern-Boprie, forty-eight, would prefer to campaign on the board's record on environmental programs and human services—like picking up the cost of hearing and vision testing for kids after the state dropped the coverage.

As attorney for Augusta Township, **Ken Schwartz** helped represent Augusta, Salem, and Ypsilanti townships in their suit against the county. (He says he'll resign his township post if elected to the commission.) Schwartz, fifty-three, challenges county officials' calculations of the cost of police coverage, but insists he harbors no animosity toward the board and says he considers county administrator Bob Guenzel a "friend."

Southwest of the city in **District 3**, three Republicans and two Democrats are lined up to challenge the only Republican who supported the price increases.

Incumbent **Stephen Solowczuk**, fifty-four, a lifelong Lodi Township resident, is seen as a hero by his supporters (mostly Democrats) and a traitor by his critics, because he joined the board's Democratic majority in requiring townships to pay more for law enforcement. "I would take that stand again," Solowczuk says, "because you have to think of your constituents and your county as a whole." Solowczuk, an equipment salesman who also sits on the sheriff's advisory board, suggests seeking permission from the state to use the "hotel tax" for additional income.

Political parties usually stay neutral in primaries, but not in this race—county Republicans have abandoned Solowczuk and endorsed challenger **Jessica Ping Mills**. Ping Mills, thirty-one, a sales representative for a payroll-outsourcing firm, also enjoys some name recognition because her sister Alicia Ping serves on the Saline City Council (which has also endorsed her). A strong critic of the current board, Ping Mills accuses Solowczuk of "not listening" to his constituents, and emphasizes her business skills.

Mike Radzik, forty-eight, was a leader in an earlier round of the sheriff conflict—the successful campaign to stop the county from issuing bonds to build a new jail. A twenty-six-year county resident, he's a retired Washtenaw County sheriff's deputy who now works in Ypsilanti Township as police services administrator. Radzik charges that the current board members "keep holding police service hostage" to the new jail issue.

David Little, sixty-eight, a resident of the village of Manchester since 1964 and a retired vice-president of Great Lakes Bancorp, has been village president, chair of Manchester's planning commission, and a member of the county planning commission. Local people urged him to run to "represent the rural area," he says. Like his fellow Republican challengers, Little criticizes the price increases for sheriff patrols. He also wonders whether the county could further reduce its staff (it eliminated 132 positions a year ago).

This is a Republican district, and the two Democrats on the ballot are almost invisible. Ann Arbor freelance writer **Tom Partridge**, sixty-three, says he is unable to campaign actively because of a physical handicap. Manchester resident **Wendy Burkhardt** did not respond to repeated requests for an interview.

The Republicans aren't even fielding a candidate in **District 7** (Pittsfield Township). Democratic commissioner **Mandy Grewal**, thirty-eight, was appointed in April to replace her husband, Robert Brackenbury—a Republican. She has lived in Pittsfield Township for twelve years, has a Ph.D. in urban planning, and has worked as a web designer and as a program specialist for the Great Lakes Commission. Now a stay-at-home mom, Grewal says that municipalities like Pittsfield that have their own police forces should not be subsidizing law enforcement in other townships. Her "passion," though, is for fighting domestic violence and child abuse.

A retired lawyer and law professor, **Bob Davidow**, sixty-eight, is a Detroit native who moved to Pittsfield a year ago to be near family. Davidow says he sees "both sides" of the sheriff controversy. He's not sure whether the jail needs to be expanded. He also suggests hiring an independent police ombudsman, both to hear citizen complaints and to point out police success stories.

District 8 (northeast Ann Arbor) features a rematch between former primary



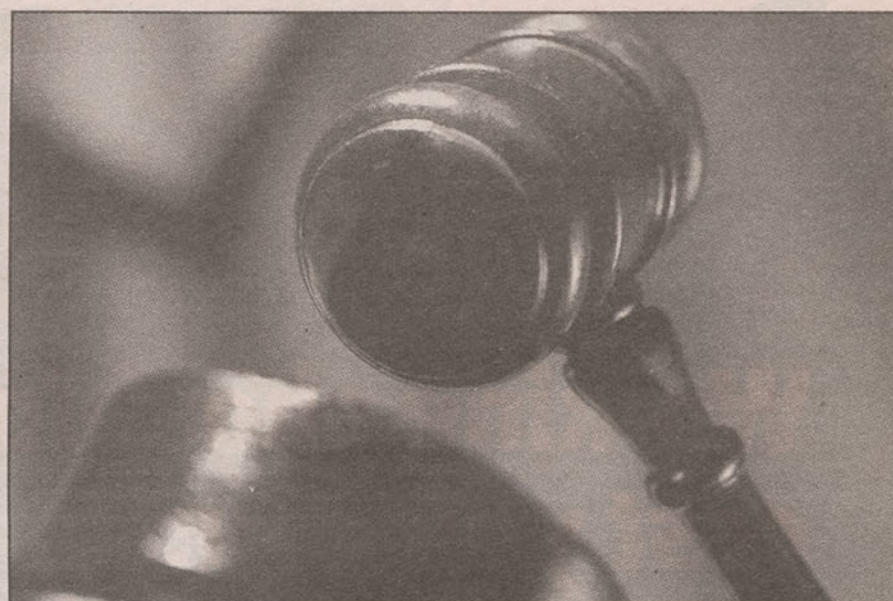


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MINORITY RULE

continued

opponents, complicated by the latest appearance of a perennial candidate.

Seeking her eighth term, incumbent **Barbara Levin Bergman**, seventy-one, vows, "I'm running an all-out campaign." A social worker, she's been especially active in county human services issues, including a system that treats patients suffering from both alcohol and mental illnesses that has attracted statewide interest. Levin Bergman has been outspoken in supporting the police funding changes.



Challenger **Christina Montague**, fifty-four, served on the commission from 1990 to 2002. But when the board's size was reduced from fifteen to eleven, Montague's district was carved up, and the Ann Arbor Public Schools social worker lost her seat to Levin Bergman. A former chair of the commission, Montague points out that during her former tenure, she was "very involved in workforce development committees." Like Levin Bergman, Montague maintains that the townships "have to take the responsibility of funding police services themselves."



Audrey Jackson, forty-nine, has previously run unsuccessfully for school board, city council, and county commission. A "stay-at-home mom" with a social work degree, Jackson says she was "asked to run" but won't say by whom. She says she believes the "primary issue" in the election is public safety. At two recent meetings of the county board, she called some current commissioners Nazis. Asked why, she responds that they are "actively engaged in suppressing, condemning, or seeking to punish thoughts, speech, or expression of citizens or other groups challenging county government policies."



Sheriff's patrols are the only issue in the Democratic primary in **District 9** (southwest Ann Arbor). No Republican is running, so the winner is guaranteed a board seat in November.

Incumbent **Leah Gunn**, a retired librarian and longtime Ann Arbor Democratic activist, has led the charge in the battle with the townships. "They boast about their lower taxes," Gunn says. "If you want services, you have to pay for them. I'm not willing to cut human services to pay for Ypsilanti Township police." Gunn, sixty-seven, has taken unpopular stances before—advocating for the Delonis Center homeless shelter even





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when constituents living near the site threatened to recall her. Although one admirer says that "only Hillary Clinton could beat Leah," Gunn says she is campaigning hard: "You never get overconfident."

Challenger **Kathy Wilson**, fifty-nine, is property manager of a local apartment complex. She moved to Ann Arbor six years ago from Detroit, where she was active in citizen groups that fought crime and dealt with neighborhood issues. Wilson says she was asked to run by a sheriff's deputy; she protests that the county unfairly asked the townships to sign long-term police contracts without telling them the final cost (the pricing has since been clarified).



It's the same story in **District 10** (northwest Ann Arbor): with no Republicans running, the winner of the Democratic primary takes all—and sheriff's patrols are the only issue.

Incumbent **Conan Smith**, thirty-four, says he helped arrange a shared technology program between the county and the city of Ypsilanti and implemented an arrangement that allowed a fully clothed Muslim girl to swim at Rolling Hills County Park. Director of the nonprofit Michigan Suburbs Alliance, he's the son of Fifty-fourth District state rep Alma Wheeler Smith and the fiancé of Fifty-third District candidate Rebekah Warren (see box, right). Smith has voted with the board majority on the sheriff's patrol funding.



Scott Snuverink, forty-four, a Pioneer High grad, owns Triangle Towing and Don's Body Shop and Towing; he says he does some work for the sheriff's department, "but not a whole lot." Snuverink maintains that the county violated an earlier agreement with the townships when it raised policing fees last year. (The townships made the same claim in their unsuccessful lawsuit.) In a campaign flyer issued jointly with Audrey Jackson and Kathy Wilson, he charges that "currently elected county officials have consistently dismissed input from the people who voted them into office, and it is time for new leadership."



The townships' assault on the county board looks like a long shot—but one that can't be ruled out. Though repeatedly rebuffed on the commission and in the courts, the townships and the deputy sheriffs have been much more successful winning public support. They helped defeat the 2005 jail millage and ran the petition drive that forced the county to abandon its bonding plan. With the August 8 primary their last shot at preserving millions of dollars in annual subsidies, they're not about to let up now.

LOOKING TO LANSING

One thing is certain about term limits in the Michigan Legislature: just when you get to know your local representatives, their seats open up and it's time for new faces. That's the case in the state's Fifty-third District, which has been represented for six years by Democrat Chris Kolb, whose last term expires this January.

Running to replace him are two well-liked local Democrats, Ann Arbor City Council Third Ward representative **Leigh Greden** and abortion rights activist **Rebekah Warren**. Since the district, which includes downtown Ann Arbor and the U-M campus, is heavily Democratic, whoever wins the August 8 primary will almost surely take the seat in the November general election.

That fact is not lost on either campaign. Both candidates have worked hard to position themselves as progressive Democrats willing to stand up and fight for liberal values. Both support increased funding for education and environmental protection, and back gay rights and women's reproductive rights. Both are against the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, which would ban affirmative action at the U-M and other public institutions. And both have long lists of endorsements: Greden, thirty-two, has the backing of much of the city's current Democratic Party establishment, the Michigan Education Association, and the *Detroit Free Press*. Warren, thirty-four, has been endorsed by key liberal organizations like Emily's List and the National Organization for Women, as well as the Michigan AFL-CIO and student activist groups at the U-M.

Though their positions are similar, the candidates are different in background and style. And with Republicans expected to remain in firm control of the state house, whichever one goes to Lansing is likely to find a less-than-friendly atmosphere. "That means that either candidate will be voting further to the left than the rest of the house," says former county commissioner Grace Shackman. Though she declines to endorse a candidate, Shackman echoes what many other Democrats are saying about the race: "The real question is, Who would be more effective in a Republican-controlled legislature?"

Each candidate claims to have the edge in legislative effectiveness. "I have a proven record of getting things done,"

says Greden, an Ann Arbor attorney by day. "On the city budget, on environmental issues and protecting city programs like recycling, I've been an effective champion of downtown issues."

Though Warren has never been elected to office, she is quick to point to her years of experience in Lansing, including a stint as legislative assistant to previous state rep Mary Schroer. "In some ways I've been training for this job for the last thirteen years," Warren says. "I know the ins and outs of the state's forty-one-billion-dollar budget. I know lawmakers and staffers on both sides of the aisle, and that will be incredibly helpful."

One prominent area Democrat agrees—with both candidates: "What we have basically are a couple of ambitious candidates, both of whom really want the seat. I think it boils down to style. Leigh is more of a wheeler-dealer. Some people like that, some don't. Rebekah might be



Leigh Greden and Rebekah Warren are competing to replace Chris Kolb in Lansing.

seen as a little more independent, but some people think she's willing to butt heads when she shouldn't. In a primary people tend to vote for who they know."

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the race is who *isn't* running. It had been widely assumed in Democratic circles that John Hieftje would run for the seat when Kolb stepped down. He caught many off guard when he opted instead to run again for mayor—an office that conspicuously lacks term limits. Greden admits that had Hieftje run, he would not have: "I was his treasurer and cochair [for Hieftje's mayoral campaigns]. And I would have supported him" had he decided to go to Lansing, says Greden.

Who is favored to win? Most Democrats are unwilling to hazard a guess on the record. But one well-known—and neutral—party member has a prediction. "I think the race will go to Rebekah—by as much as ten points," this person says. "This is not to put down Leigh. He has done good work. I think they are both credible figures. But in this kind of district and this kind of race, Rebekah's Lansing pedigree and the fact that she's a woman will be very important."

"And yes," the Democrat concludes, "I think it would turn out the same if she were running against Hieftje—which may be one reason why she is not."

—Derek Green

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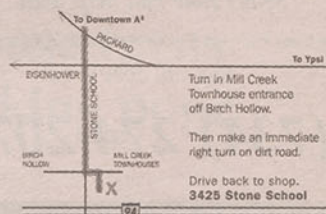
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"Would you like your room blessed before dinner?" Kathy Herron calls out to a woman running down a staircase.

"No, it's a mess," the woman calls back.

It's probably the first time that exchange has taken place at the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house. Since last October the twenty-two-bedroom Tudor mansion on Cambridge, built by the fraternity in 1929 and notorious for Animal House-type antics, has been the Nesting Place, a transitional home for single women in crisis.

She is given to aphorisms, and people respond to them: "Take the best and leave the rest" and "Surround yourself with love and light" are a few of her favorite pieces of advice.

She begins the blessing in the downstairs office by joining hands with Michelle Harney, director of the Nesting Place, and Harney's two staff assistants, Sigrid Barnes and Debra Vaughn-Walker. Herron says an informal prayer, lights a stick of sweetgrass incense, and begins waving the stick through the room like a fairy godmother with a magic wand. Har-



SALLY MITANI

Ann Arbor's SHADOW Women

The Nesting Place is usually quiet. Single women of little means make little noise—a sociological fact that goes a long way toward explaining both the need for the Nesting Place and why it's struggling to survive.

But tonight, there's a bit of a buzz in the air. Kathy Herron is a newly ordained Spiritualist minister who just completed two years of training in Lily Dale, New York. She is known to the Nesting Place staff and some of its residents through her day job as employment manager at the Center for Independent Living. Today, though, she's here to bless the house and cleanse it of the "negative energy" left behind by decades of frat parties.

Herron is a warm and engaging presence, and she's coiffed, dressed, and made up with a care that by itself might help transmit the "positive energy" she is trying to channel into the house where people tend to slump, sigh, and light cigarettes.

ney and Vaughn-Walker comply willingly, if somewhat neutrally, with the ceremony, but Barnes begins to tremble. She doesn't say exactly what she's feeling, which may be more related to something in her personal life, but afterwards Herron and Barnes discuss the negative energy, left behind by the previous occupants, that they both keenly sense.

Strange bedfellows

Jim Koli, forty-three, president of the local ATO alumni—the landlord, in other words—discusses the negative energy of the house in less metaphysical terms. "They were bad boys," he shrugs, talking about the last group of ATO brothers. They drank and they trashed the property, and by April 2005 it was clear the house needed to close and reorganize. It will reopen in three years, probably as a dry fraternity, he says, but until then Alpha Tau Omega has a \$350,000 mortgage to pay. The Pan-

An old fraternity house turns sorority for the working poor.

by Sally Mitani

hellenic Association brought him together with Michelle Harney, who at one time was a housemother for the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and had kept in touch with the Greek grapevine.

Harney had been trying to raise money to build an "intentional community" providing low-cost housing for older women, with and without disabilities. When she heard about the vacancy at ATO, she decided to jump on it, modifying her plan slightly because the building, with all its bedrooms on the second and third floors, can't accommodate much physical disability.

She managed to get a quick \$10,000 and ten computers from the county. She found a volunteer group to clean the place up, arranged for Food Gatherers to supply all the food, and opened last October. Harney is the only paid employee; Sigrid Barnes is a VISTA volunteer, and Debra Vaughn-Walker, a social worker, is on disability for traumatic brain injury. (Another volunteer social worker, Pam Baker Trosle, helps Harney deal with other agencies.) They are the core staff of the Nesting Place; they're there during the day, and they facilitate a house meeting on Thursday evenings, but they don't live there.

The Nesting Place is a nonprofit, waiting for its federal 501(c)(3) status. It has a board of directors made up of like-minded women. Sandy Schopbach, one of them, is a free-spirited tour guide and translator who spends part of the year in France. "I'm financially back on my feet now, but there was a moment in Paris when I didn't

know how I would pay the rent and put food on the table for both kids," Schopbach remembers. "And I was over forty, so no one would give me a job. I know what these women are going through."

The Nesting Place has room for eighteen women, but in July only eight were living there. So far it has one "graduate," Julie Ward, who works at the Salvation Army store at State and Stimson; Ward now has her own apartment, which she shares with her boyfriend and adult son.

The shadow women

The demographic Harney is serving is silent and elusive, but it's not unknown to people in the social services. Sometimes called "shadow women," or the "hidden homeless," these people do not fit the iconic stereotype of the unkempt panhandler with the bottle in a paper bag, or the bag lady pushing a shopping cart. Instead they disguise their poverty, often keeping their dire situations secret from even families and friends. They spend their days walking the malls or reading quietly in the library, and keep up appearances by slipping into public restrooms to wash.

The problem isn't particularly new, either. Florence Nightingale's first job, in 1851, was directing a home for "distressed gentlewomen," which was the nineteenth century's name—roughly speaking—for the residents of the Nesting Place. More recently the plight of older, unexpectedly homeless women has been chronicled by Marjorie Bard in a book, *Shadow Women*, and in a documentary film, *It Was a Won-*



GRIFFIN LINDSAY

(Upper right) Debra Vaughn-Walker, Kathy Herron, Michelle Harney, and Sigrid Barnes purge negative energy at the Nesting Place. (Above) ATO alumni president Jim Koli says the fraternity has tapped its own reserves to help the group.



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Ann Arbor's SHADOW Women

continued



A divorce left Debbie Sennett homeless. Though she works full time and cleans houses on the side, she can barely afford the \$425 monthly room and board.

derful Life. These works give harrowing portraits of older women, often well educated, who led secure mainstream lives until they were hit by some combination of disasters: divorce, death, job loss, a health crisis. "We're all one divorce away from being homeless" is a common saying around the Nesting Place. In fact, Harney and Barnes have come close to homelessness themselves, putting their belongings in storage and sleeping on friends' sofas. "Every woman in this house has stuff in storage," says Harney.

Shadow women are underserved by the social system and hard to find, for a number of reasons. There are no specific services to help them, as there are for women with dependent children, disabilities, or substance abuse problems, or who are victims of domestic violence. Older women suddenly thrust into poverty don't know how to navigate the complex web of social services, and once they make the phone call, they don't get to the top of anyone's priority list until they actually turn up at a shelter.

Women in these circumstances are inclined to live quietly and hide their distress. Harney hasn't had an easy time finding them, and has trouble filling the Nesting Place. She does get a lot of referrals from the Delonis Center homeless shelter and the Dawn Farm treatment program, but Harney would like to catch women before they get to that point. Since the Nesting Place opened its doors, she's had to evict a half dozen residents who were mentally unstable or had misrepresented their ability to pay the \$425 monthly rent.

As Koli trenchantly puts it, "The county was taking all their misfits and dumping them on the new kid on the block." But he says that Harney has learned a lot from a bad year and that he's confident in her ability to pull it off. By "pulling it off" he means paying approximately \$5,000 a

month in rent to ATO, instead of the current pay-what-you-can arrangement.

Koli says that the women who live there "have treated the place immaculately" and Harney is performing a useful community service. While he's reluctant to turn them out, he acknowledges that pretty soon the fraternity is going to have to do a reassessment. ATO has used its own reserves to float the Nesting Place for the past ten months, and can't do that forever.

Still, he's optimistic. Harney and Koli are both quick to point out that she started out on the wrong side of the grant cycle: many granting agencies have August deadlines, so she had to run the place for close to a year before she could even apply for most grants, a piece of bad timing that is proving almost impossible to get on top of. But, Koli says, "she's really good at knocking on doors and shaking hands in the neighborhood, too." For that reason alone he'd like to keep the shadow women there. The neighborhood put up with a lot in the final ATO days, and Harney is doing much to mend fences.

"A soft touch"

To move into the Nesting Place, residents must be over forty-five and have no dependent children or pets. Each room has cable television and Internet access and a lock on the door. Residents share cooking and cleaning chores and must be able to pay the rent in cash every month.

There are a few other rules, but not nearly as many as you'd find at a halfway house or shelter. Alcohol is permitted on the premises (cigarettes seem to be practically required), and residents aren't turned out onto the street every day as they are at the shelters. In fact, living there is much like living in a sorority house.

Harney has no rule book to decide who is eligible and who isn't. Prospective residents go through intake with Debra

Vaughn-Walker and must pass her and the staff's subjective threshold for physical, mental, and financial stability. Because all the bedrooms are upstairs, the physical requirement tends to be self selecting, but Harney admits she's made mistakes by admitting people with mental or substance abuse problems that weren't sufficiently under control. Harney wishes she didn't need to rely quite so much on referrals from the homeless shelter and Dawn Farm. She, Barnes, and Vaughn-Walker say one of their main problems is being "a soft touch."

Harney's default demeanor is jovial and motherly, but these days, like some of the residents, she's often given to sighing, lighting a cigarette, looking heavenward, and saying "I don't know." But she can be direct when she needs to be. She confesses she's discouraged by how hard it is to find the women who need the Nesting Place. She knows they're out there, but they don't know how to find her, and she doesn't know how to find them. She's also discouraged by how difficult it is to get cash out of well-wishers. "I've got to pay a fifteen-hundred-dollar electric bill this month. It's nice when people want to donate stuff, but I need money," she says.

The Nesting Place has a room full of sheets, blankets, and comforters for people to help themselves, but a surprising number of the rooms have bare mattresses, with boxes and suitcases stacked up as if the occupant had just moved in that afternoon. Some of the residents have full-time jobs, some work part time, and others have no visible means of support, living on Social Security, disability payments, or just dwindling assets.

Living there

Though \$425 a month for room and board doesn't sound like much, Debbie Sennett, who works nearly full time at Value World sorting clothes, can just barely afford it.

Sennett, forty-eight, is an articulate and shrewd spokesperson for the homeless. She's from the Detroit area and was once married to an ironworker who had a good income. A divorce left her broke, so she moved in with her daughter, but her daughter had a serious drug problem and Sennett, frightened, moved out. She landed in a Downriver homeless shelter, and when her ninety-day limit there was up, she was referred to Delonis Center in Ann Arbor.

Unlike some other Nesting Place residents, who are reluctant to give their names or speak on record (understandably, since being here is no one's finest hour), Sennett says, forthrightly, "Use my name. Use my story. I've got nothing to hide. I hope this will get me a better job." She says she loves her job at Value World and works as many extra hours as she can, but at \$6.25 an hour, she takes home less than \$800 a month.

Sennett has fond memories of her stay at Delonis, when she could bank all of her Value World paycheck. A quick study, with high energy, well-developed social skills, and no drug problems, she soon became something of a teacher's pet there.

"When I came there," she says, "I weighed a hundred and eighteen pounds."

(A tall woman, she is slim at her current weight of 140.) "I looked so wasted, they thought I was on crack, but it was just from stress. They kept saying, 'Come on, Debbie, you can tell us.' Then when they found out I really wasn't on drugs, they loved me," she laughs.

"I want to say this," she says. "A lot of people think when you go into the shelter that you're on drugs. But that's not always the case. I don't take drugs, and that's documented. I can pass any drug or background check. I used to laugh at the homeless. Now I'll give them a cigarette, spare change—I don't care what they do with it. As long as they aren't hurting me, what do I care?"

Sennett spent her first days in the over-

nances are not secure. Though she tries not to pay attention to rumors, she's hoping to be out on her own before it closes.

Michelle Harney is frank about the place's precarious situation. Not only has she not been able to pay the full rent ATO wants, many months she hasn't even been able to pay herself. Her hope now is to hold on until she's able to raise more grant money—and until more of the shadow women find her.

Meanwhile Kathy Herron is making her way down the hall of the second floor, blessing more rooms. "They should paint the walls white," she comments.

Is this decorating advice, or does it have a Spiritualist connotation?

"Uh, both, I suppose," she says, startled



Michelle Harney is frank about the Nesting Place's precarious situation. She often can't pay the full rent to ATO—and many months, she can't even pay herself.

booked shelter sleeping on a chair in the front lobby. "You can't even put your feet on it," she says. But by the time she left several months later, she had her job at Value World, had saved \$1,500, and had even been given one of the two cell phones donated to the shelter by the Ann Arbor Fire Department. She still carries the phone on her hip.

She's been living at the Nesting Place since last Thanksgiving. She doesn't own a car, and she cleans houses for extra money whenever she can. Her dream is to get a job that pays more than minimum wage and to rent a small apartment in Ann Arbor.

"I feel really good about myself, because I did it all on my own," Sennett says. She is looking forward to November, when she can do volunteer work at Delonis again (she helped out in the laundry room when she was living there). She misses the work, but you have to be out of the shelter for a year before you can go back as a volunteer—an interesting rule that suggests Delonis knows it has a potential to become too central to its residents' lives.

You have to be out of Delonis a year before you live there again, too—which is also, Sennett acknowledges, a distinct possibility in her future, if she doesn't get a better-paying job and if the Nesting Place doesn't get itself on firmer financial footing quickly.

Needed blessings

Like many other residents of the Nesting Place, Sennett has heard that its fi-

at the question. It remains unclear what her primary meaning was.

Sandy H., who moved in two weeks ago and still seems unsure of her surroundings, wants her room blessed. She also wants to know whether Herron will bless her son in absentia. Framed pictures of her son and the rest of her family are spread out on her bare mattress.

Herron is thinking about perhaps starting a Spiritualist church in Ann Arbor. "That's the only kind of church I could be interested in," Sandy encourages her. "You're a little closer to reality than they are."

An alcoholic who gave up drinking and an alcoholic husband in Garden City years ago, Sandy has health problems. She sold her house and moved to Ann Arbor, where she was being treated. She lived for a while in Courthouse Square but couldn't afford the rent. Then she enlisted in Washtenaw County's Wrap-around Program, which pulls together housing, medical, and financial services, and supposedly teaches clients to navigate the system on their own.

It didn't work well for Sandy. Herron, whose day job is essentially being a social worker, discusses the program's strengths and weaknesses. Sandy, lulled by the incense, admits that she has trouble planning for the future. She thinks she has little time left to live and imagines meeting her family "on the other side."

Herron is unfazed. "And it will be a joyous and good thing, when it comes," she says. Then she waves her sweetgrass stick over the photographs to bless them.

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Just Desserts

In search of
Ann Arbor's
sweetest endings.

by Vickie Elmer

Life is uncertain. Eat dessert first.

—Writer Ernestine Ulmer
(no relation, honest!)

Don't wreck a sublime chocolate experience by feeling guilty.
—Lora Brody, author of *Chocolate American Style*

Without ice cream, there would be darkness and chaos.
—Don Kardong, 1976 Olympic marathoner

Dessert can make almost any day seem special. It can bring a smile to the face of a little child or a beautiful woman. It can make you forget a missed promotion or a broken heart—at least for a while. It can turn a mediocre meal into a memorable one.

Yet finding great dessert in Ann Arbor can feel like finding great art—there are plenty of imitations and ordinary offerings in both worlds as well as some stunning standouts. And desserts vary in flavor and price just as much as Manet's paintings differ from Picasso's.

For tips on the most delicious and memorable desserts, I consulted with experts and aficionados. I asked women at a Girl Scout potluck and couples sitting along Main Street's sidewalk cafes. I talked to people at the mall and waiting in line at Kroger. I asked strangers and friends, foodies and free spirits for their suggestions on which restaurants and which desserts were exceptional.

Then, with the summer fruits in full swing and many restaurants calling to us with outside cafes, I tried as many of them as I could. My qualifications to judge desserts? Only a lifetime of appreciation, as a consumer and a cook.

Growing up in Detroit, I noshed on blueberry and peach cobblers (baked by Mom) and *Schaumtorte* (made by Grandma) and various cakes and pies supplied by aunts and others. I learned to bake cookies and nut breads—cranberry orange nut bread still is a holiday favorite—and I learned to love ice cream, including some flavors like black licorice that now aren't quite as appealing. As an adult, I grew to appreciate a fine chocolate mousse and flourless tortes and cakes made by pastry chefs and other

experts who knew desserts could dazzle the eyes as well as the taste buds.

For this article, I wanted the desserts to run the rainbow of flavors—from ice cream to strawberry something to plenty of chocolate. And I hoped for a range of prices—so my helpers and I looked for things that would appeal to the budget conscious as well as those who don't blink at a \$30 dessert tab.

"Sometimes just a simple sorbet with fresh berries accompanied by a cookie or two can be a primo dessert," says Ricky Agranoff, one of the founders of the Moveable Feast. "Much better than an ill-conceived fancy pastry that looks good, but has no zip to it." Agranoff favors desserts from La Dolce Vita, and knows the pastry chef there.

So we visited La Dolce Vita and about twenty other restaurants, bakeries, and ice cream shops. We sampled at least two desserts at each place and sometimes more if compelled by the size of our group or the circumstances of the evening. At Amadeus, the charming bit of Mitteleuropa at Washington and Fourth Avenue, we ordered two—and then a third because I knew that the third choice (a hazelnut torte

that I had enjoyed on an earlier visit) was better than the first two.

We tasted desserts recommended by people who love desserts and also those suggested by our servers. (For more on how to choose, see the box on page 34.)

And occasionally we just lived in the moment and tried something on the menu that seemed to sing out to us and beg to be eaten—though usually it also had at least one recommendation behind it.

In the list below, my two favorite places come first. The rest are grouped according to price: high-end desserts first, then more affordable treats. The listings are in alphabetical order, and every dessert listed here I'd go back to eat again anytime.

The all-stars

My favorite desserts in Ann Arbor are the crepes at Cafe Felix and the warm chocolate cake at Pacific Rim.

Cafe Felix on Main Street has a French feeling, and some of the food has a decidedly French accent too. Its crepes are luscious, large, and served with plentiful fresh fruits. My \$6 order of strawberry and banana crepes was enough for two people—three crepes packed with fruit and topped with Nutella, a delicious chocolate-hazelnut spread. Ice cream can be added for only \$1—and in the summertime, it is a wonderful addition.

We also enjoyed the wild berry crepes (also \$6)—four or five crepes folded into pie shapes, topped with strawberries, and drizzled liberally with a raspberry-and-blackberry puree and sprinkled with powdered sugar. The puree packed a powerful berry flavor—and both my son Wilson and I adored it.

Pacific Rim by Kana is home to Asian fusion cuisine, and its finest dessert has a multicultural appeal. The warm chocolate cake with coconut ice cream is an incredible mix of flavors and textures and temperatures. The round cake made with bittersweet chocolate is cooked to order and arrives warm, with a soft, melting inside. Along the side of the plate are a half dozen cherries infused with sake, which gives them a moist plumpness and adds complexity to their flavor. The ice cream, made at the restaurant, is quite fine and not all that coconutty (other flavors will be substituted on request). Savored as the ice



For tips on the city's most delicious and memorable desserts, reporter Vickie Elmer asked experts and aficionados, women at a Girl Scout potluck, and couples dining outdoors on Main Street. Her all-star picks: the fruit crepes at Cafe Felix (above) and the warm chocolate cake with coconut ice cream at Pacific Rim (left, modeled by waiter Joseph Fritz).

Enjoy your summer!



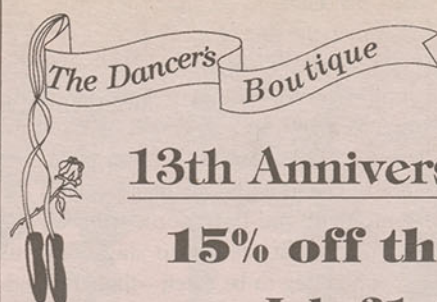
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Just Desserts

continued

cream slowly melts and the cake cools, it's worth the twenty-minute wait and the \$8 price tag.

Also intriguing was the crème brûlée sampler, three flavors for \$8. Surprising and light, the flavors the night we ordered it were lime, green tea (the most robust of the three), and ginger. They were served in small porcelain dishes—and the flavors were so unusual and the crème brûlée so smooth that they drew our attention even as we feasted on warm chocolate cake.

High-end sweet endings

The dessert menu at **Amadeus** offers ten items, and the server suggested several of them as very fine. Yet we were disappointed by the early ones, including the apple caramel cheesecake, which sounded scrumptious but ended up fairly ordinary. So instead we went for something guaranteed to appeal—the hazelnut torte, made primarily of ground-up hazelnuts and what seems to be chocolate icing with a few half hazelnuts on top. It's sweet and not for those who are lukewarm about chocolate or nuts, but it's not as heavy as it sounds. I was amazed at how quickly we finished it off.

Cafe Zola always seems filled with the beautiful people of Ann Arbor, those who never have to ask for directions to Power Center or any other entertainment venue.

CHOOSING A GREAT DESSERT

The menu lists a half dozen delicacies or more—from cheesecake to strawberry tart and a chocolate creation with three kinds of the dark stuff. So how on earth are you to choose the best dessert?

Start by considering what kind of restaurant it is—an Italian place is likely to excel at Italian desserts like tiramisu or cannoli, and an Indian place may have a fabulous coconut *burfi* or carrot *halwa*, a favorite of mine.

Then consider what season it is. Strawberries and raspberries taste better when they are in season and fresh.

If the choices still seem overwhelming, ask your waiter a few questions—but only if the server seems knowledgeable about the food. "Waitpeople don't always know," says Bobby Frank, a food lover who once wrote a restaurant guide to Ann Arbor called *I Eat: Therefore I Am*. "When somebody says everything's good, I don't follow up any further."

Tina Meltzer-O'Donnell, an Ann Arbor teacher and true dessert lover, says she relies on trial and error, friends' recommendations, and server recommendations—which she agrees can be "hit or miss."

"I've had my share of mediocre or bad desserts," she says, including some the waiter endorsed. She really enjoys the mango tart at Zanzibar, anything from Bella Ciao, and Eastern Accents' coconut buns and sponge cake filled with cream.

Others use simpler approaches. Roberta Shrope of Kitchen Port goes with whatever the restaurant's specialty is—or she goes to La Dolce Vita, where she, like Ricky Agranoff, knows the pastry chef. And it's increasingly common for diners to share desserts, giving everyone a chance to sample more flavors.

—V.E.

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In a city where desserts
can cost close to \$10—
as much as meals
in some parts of Michigan—
Elmer relished finding
affordable fare for finishing a
meal or evening. Among the
best of the bargains:
the baklava at Ali Baba's
and the fruit- and nut-laden
"wunderbar," just \$2.50
at Big City Small World Bakery
(right, modeled by staffer
Tracy Johnson).



GHIFIN LINDSAY

Yet it also is said to be a fabulous place for
desserts and crepes, so Mom and I went
there eager to try them. She really wanted
cheesecake—and found a delicious rasp-
berry Chambord version for \$6.75. Almost
three inches high, it provided a light rasp-
berry taste from the liqueur and raspberry
sauce drizzled around. It was moist and
cheesy; we wished only for more fresh
raspberries with it—there were perhaps
five in all.

I was disappointed to learn Cafe Zola
had run out of crepes that day. So I re-
turned another evening to try the Nutella
banana crepes (\$8.95)—and found them
tough and hard to cut, slightly rubbery, as
if they might have been made earlier in
the day. The raspberry sauce and ice
cream were fine, but the dessert overall
was not outstanding. Instead, we tried—
and enjoyed—the baked chocolate fudge
(\$6.75). Served with vanilla ice cream, it
seemed like a cousin to Pacific Rim's
warm chocolate cake—and they were both
quite delicious.

(I acknowledge a large number of
chocolate choices, but those seem to be the
best and most popular offerings at many
locales. I did diligently search for fruit and
cream desserts, but found few fabulous
ones. I'm still disappointed that I cannot
recommend any strawberry rhubarb pie or
peachy desserts.)

Eve, tucked away in the back of the
Kerrytown Shops, offers an elegant and
quiet place for dinner or dessert. The Ob-
server's restaurant critic suggested I try
the "cup of chocolate," which is really just
that: three kinds of chocolate are melted
together, mixed, and served in a teacup
(\$6) or an espresso cup (\$3). Foolishly, I
ordered the large cup. It was incredibly
smooth, warm, possessed of European
complexity, and topped with a brown sug-
ar cream, but it was too much for me that
evening. Perhaps on a chilly fall or win-
ter's evening, I'll be able to enjoy it all.

While some people rave over Jefferson
Market's chocolate mousse brownie
(\$4.75), we found it a bit too much for

us—"too chocolaty," said one son. Instead,
we found ourselves falling for the apricot
cake with cream cheese frosting (\$4.25). It
was a sizable piece, nearly four inches
square—so we cut it into thirds. Small
pieces of apricot dotted a dense, subtly fla-
vored yellow cake generously topped with
a luscious rich yet fluffy cream cheese ic-
ing—white like ten inches of snow in Jan-
uary. This cake will appeal to those who
love frosting—or to anyone who doesn't
want an overpowering flavor burst in a
sweet ending.

I also adore the Jeff's coconut maca-
roon, which is dipped in dark chocolate
(\$2.75). This is a sweet, moist treat, and
the dark chocolate on the bottom counter-
acts the sweetness of the coconut.

La Dolce Vita, the fancy dessert, drink,
and cigar bar on Main Street, has a reputa-
tion for selling great desserts—and its
dessert menu does offer a dozen choices.
People rave about the crème brûlée (\$6.95),
which is served in a five-inch-wide dish
and topped by assorted fresh fruits—from
mangoes to a blackberry. It's creamy,
smooth, and just rich enough, with the
burnt sugar topping giving it a satisfying
crunch.

We also enjoyed the strawberry cannoli
(\$6.95), filled with Mascarpone cheese
that was flavored with strawberries until it
took on a pretty pink color. The two can-
noli shells were crispy and fresh and cov-
ered in powdered sugar and a few straw-
berry chocolate shavings. On the side was
a strawberry-and-berry compote. I felt that
both desserts were large enough to share—
and so did a woman sitting near me who
said she and her sister often divide the
crème brûlée between them. She calls it
the best in Ann Arbor.

Affordable indulgence

In a city where desserts can cost close
to \$10—as much as meals in some parts of
Michigan—we relished finding affordable
fare for finishing our meal or evening.
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Two pieces of baklava at Ali Baba's



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Just Desserts

continued



Third time's the charm:
the third dessert Elmer tried
at Amadeus, the hazelnut torte
(above), turned out to be her
favorite. She wasn't enthralled
with the Stroh's ice cream at the
Washtenaw Dairy; her
ice cream all-stars are
Kilwin's and Stucchi's (below).
She also has a good word
for a couple of gelati—
and for the chocolate milk shake
at Sweetwaters.



cost just \$2.66, tax included. Packed with pistachios and other nuts and honey, these light triangles of sweetness are a fabulous end to a meal or a treat for later on. They were even good the next day—with nuts falling out and the fragile phyllo leaves still crispy. The restaurant on Packard has several choices of Middle Eastern desserts—we'll try others in our next visit.

At Big City Small World Bakery on Miller, just a few blocks off Main Street, the "wunderbar" lives up to its name. Made with dates, raisins, pecans, and walnuts, the rich, buttery bar won me over—and my two sons too. It cost \$2.50. We also liked the oatmeal raisin cookie (\$1.50)—and it was almost half an inch

PHOTOS GRIFFIN LINDSAY

GREAT ICE CREAM

I've searched for ice cream in many cities and countries and always found something superb. In Buenos Aires, it was *dulce de leche*—the sweet caramel-like flavor that's all the rage there. In New York, sorbets would send me into heaven with their fruity light ending to a meal. And in Ann Arbor, I have found ample ice cream to delight me.

I also found a few places that left me, ah, cold. Many residents swear by the Washtenaw Dairy and its old-fashioned charm and character, yet I find the ice cream—Stroh's from Detroit—only average. The Dairy, in the same location on Ashley Street since 1932, stopped making its own ice cream about thirty years ago. And I'm not stuck on most of the chains that have outlets here either.

Instead, I favor ice cream from two special stores. To be sure, other places offer a fine ending to a meal or the afternoon—from Ben & Jerry's to Zingerman's. Yet for really wonderful ice cream—and many varied flavors—I will return again and again to Stucchi's and Kilwin's. And I also will savor, but more selectively, some offerings at Gelato di Roma—in part because it's across Catherine Street from my office at the Observer.

Stucchi's, with campus locations on State and South University and an outpost on Washtenaw across from Whole Foods, is a homegrown ice cream maker. A new manufacturing plant in Saline serves the Ann Arbor stores as well as outlets in Royal Oak, Okemos, and a couple coming soon to Dexter and North Carolina. Stucchi's pints show up in some supermarkets, and they have spent time in my freezer this year too—but not very much time.

My favorite flavor is mango, which tastes creamy and tropical and luscious. The Black Forest—chocolate and cherries—is also a great summer treat. On a scale of 1 to 10, I'd give Stucchi's a 9 for flavor and variety—Stucchi's stores typically carry twenty-four flavors of ice cream and twenty-three of frozen yogurt at any given time. And staffers are happy to give two or even three tastes of different flavors, so it's easy to find one you'll love.

My other favorite is **Kilwin's** on East Liberty just off Main. A seasonal extension of a chocolate shop, it offers an array of chilled chocolate treats—and not so many fruit flavors. Its most popular flavor is "Ann Arbor mud," a vanilla ice cream with chocolate specks and caramel sauce swirled throughout it. The flavor combination isn't as intense as some others, but there's a rich, creamy feeling to it.

We also liked the chocolate caramel cashew, which had a darker chocolate ice cream base and tons of nuts—some of them clusters—in it. It scored a solid 7.

Our server recommended the turtle, but the chocolate ice cream was too light for my robust sensibilities. She said the toasted coconut also is a favorite, but we chose my

son Wilson's standard: chocolate chip cookie dough. With ample dough and chips in a rich vanilla base, we'd rate it an 8 or 8.5.

Kilwin's waffle cones are made fresh in the shop—a woman works a round waffle iron in the front window—and the smell is enticing as you walk inside. They cost \$1.60 extra (on top of \$3.10 for a single cone, \$4.10 for a double) but are quite tasty and nicely crispy even with dripping ice cream inside. We thought they added a delicious dimension to the ice cream.

Kilwin's ice cream is imported from its main offices in Petoskey, where the company was established in 1947.

Three other places merit a mention:

Gelato di Roma in Kerrytown has a rainbow of flavors from mint Oreo to dulce de leche to purple cow and raspberry cheesecake. The gelato is made on site with fresh ingredients—plenty of bananas in the banana split and real strawberries in the strawberries and cream. We found the gelato not as creamy and rich as we would like—perhaps because the owners claim it has fewer calories and about half the fat of most ice creams. We did enjoy the dulce de leche Roma, though it wasn't quite as rich and wonderful as the version we adored in Buenos Aires.

Gelato di Roma's raspberry sorbet is heavenly, and at \$2.79 for a small cup or \$3.99 for a triple dip—more than enough for two people—it is an affordable and refreshing dessert. The strawberry-lemon sorbet also revives us on a hot summer afternoon or evening.

Sweetwaters—yes, the coffee shop and meeting place—has at least one fabulous ice cream treat: a chocolate milk shake. It was thick and clearly had plenty of ice cream (with a little 2 percent milk) in it, but seemed a little light on chocolate for my taste. Still, at sixteen ounces for \$3.65 or twenty ounces for \$4.15, it makes a great afternoon option for those who are disinclined to order another triple latte or Empress Flower tea.

Zingerman's Next Door sells gelato made at Zingerman's Creamery near the Ann Arbor Airport. The small number of choices is strange in a deli where options abound, yet we found ourselves savoring the dulce de leche gelato for its simplicity. It's creamy and sweet—made with Michigan milk—and both of my sons liked it quite well. We'll say the same of the Roadhouse Vanilla, which comes dotted with dark flecks of vanilla beans. Yet the prices—the six-ounce cup was \$4.50, and the four-ounce one was \$3.50—were classic Zingerman's too. The large six-ounce cup is big enough to share, especially with the tiny sampling spoons that slow down the ice cream eating. (The Creamery itself offers sixteen flavors—including ginger and "chocolate heat"—that sound intriguing. I also like the sound of Wednesday's special—buy two gelati and get the third free.)

—V.E.

thick. We passed on the bakery's most popular dessert, the ding dong covered in chocolate ganache (\$3.25), because we were in danger of overdosing on chocolate that week. We like Big City's offerings and only wish it would stay open until 8 instead of 7 p.m. so we could enjoy it more often. And for those who want a Saturday treat, plan ahead—it closes at 6.

Eastern Accents bakery and restaurant on South Fourth Avenue offers extraordinary bargains on light Asian meals and various desserts. The \$4.15 strawberry shortcake was made with sponge cake and some fresh strawberries; it was a cool, refreshing dessert despite being

made with artificial whipped cream. The mini dark chocolate cake was rich, chocolatey, and a fabulous bargain at \$2.50. We divided it up.

For those who think we have missed some great desserts in Ann Arbor, I will acknowledge that they're right. We didn't visit a few places that were recommended, and at others we couldn't try all the desserts brought to our attention. But the beauty of great desserts is sharing your findings with friends and family—and always being open to new discoveries.

Jacob...where are you?

Miele



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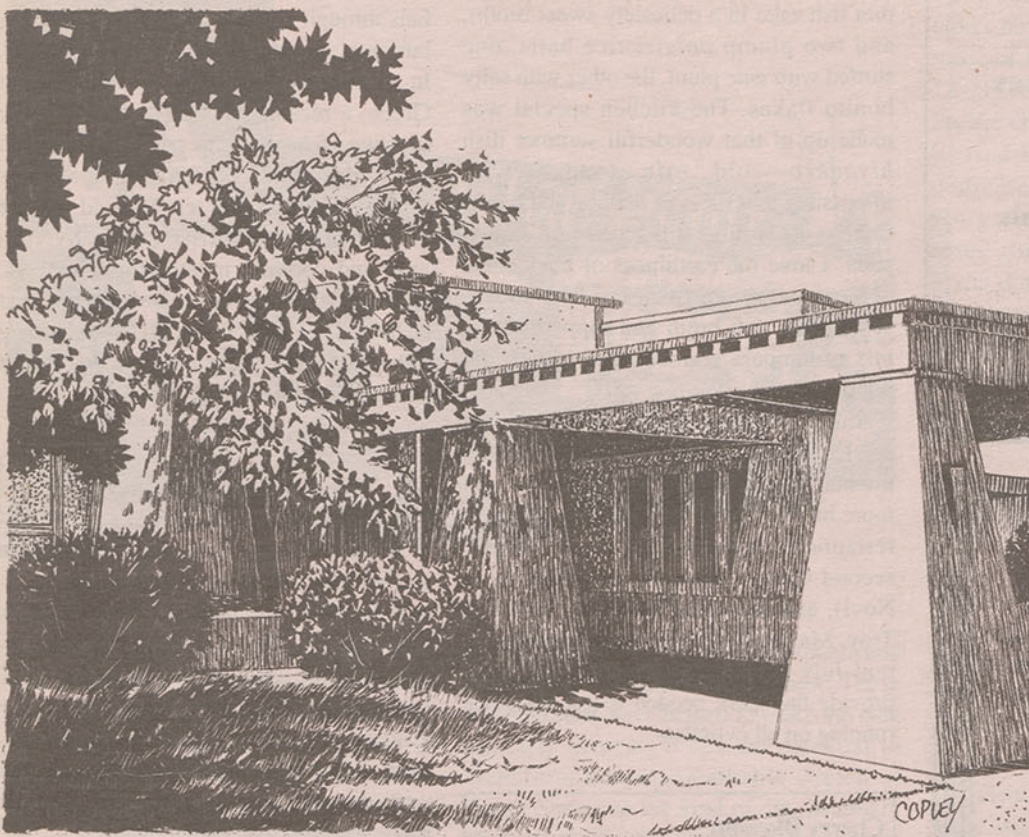
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Restaurant Reviews



JOHN COPLEY

Cherry Blossom

Sporadic

In June, we took several trips to State Street near the airport, where the Japanese restaurant Cherry Blossom has risen from Chi-Chi's Tex-Mex ashes. The place had been open three months; yet every time we walked in the door, the hostess apologized for not yet having a liquor license. More than one of the staff fretted out loud that the delay was a big setback in attracting the Japanese auto execs they are hoping to serve.

I'm perfectly happy with a good cup of green tea, so it was no big deal to me. And I was curious to see what had been done with the building. Although stucco walls and Spanish Colonial arches remain, the makeover has gone a long way to mask the restaurant's past. Overall, the effect of the new earthy colors and wood trim is serene, especially if you sit with a view of the hypnotic water wall behind the sushi chefs. The tatami rooms are lovely, a private world behind shoji screens, with woven mats on the floor and upholstered cushions on the low seats. The bar—Asia-modern swanky, vast, and, when I was there, empty—occupies a good chunk of the square footage.

Most entrees come with a fairly standard-Japanese-restaurant-issue salad with ginger dressing and a bowl of miso soup. On my first visit we added a sushi appetizer and watched the two chefs behind the stretch of polished granite—I'd guess it's the longest sushi bar in the area—as they labored over our rolls. They presented us with a first-rate soft-shell crab maki and a good California, each artfully fanned out on the plate and flanked by wasabi and pickled ginger.

If you're feeling more adventurous (or hungrier), look to the daily specials for unusual appetizers, as our own group of three did on my second visit. We were rewarded with a delicious lobster roll—a high-toned, gooey relative of the common California that had a more heavily dressed lobster in place of the crab. Steamed shrimp gyoza dumplings were well executed, delicate and light, carrying the sweet and tangy sea flavor of minced shrimp. The most interesting starter in the group was the *sanma shioyaki*, a small whole mackerel, lightly salted and grilled (this is also available as a main course), with a bit of pickle and a small mound of mild grated horseradish. Mackerel has an assertive flavor and doesn't need much extra—beautifully moist, it won over even the non-fish lover at our table.

The *kaiseki* bento entree is an elegant tasting menu in a lacquered box: it includes small portions of shrimp tempura, sautéed pork dumplings (not as tasty as the shrimp), tender grilled beef with a teriyaki glaze, a salmon fillet, and egg *tamago*. Cherry Blossom has a skilled hand with tempura, resulting in a crisp, light, and nearly greaseless exterior whether blanketing vegetables or shrimp. It is served with a subtle dipping sauce that adds another pleasant dimension, as well as a somewhat incongruous and rather mushy Japanese-style potato salad.

The all-in-one bento also gets around Cherry Blossom's biggest problem: service so sporadic that I sometimes found it hard to evaluate the food. On my second visit, two of three appetizers we ordered arrived, and before we'd finished eating them, servers were crowding the table with miso soup and dinner salads. I had asked for the *akadashi* miso (made with red miso paste)

but was given the regular miso. I signaled this to the waiter, who whisked away the bowl and promised to return with the *akadashi*. While we were still working on the starters (and waiting for the third one we'd ordered), one entree, a vegetarian tempura, arrived. The servers set it off to the side of the table, chuckling, "The chef is really fast tonight." I could see my guest trying to do a loss assessment—should she skip the appetizer or risk having the tempura go cold and soggy?

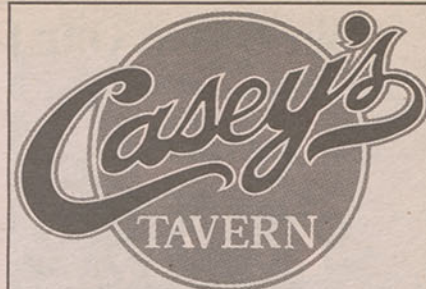
The next two mains came a few minutes later, but instead of the ordered salmon teriyaki, a salt-broiled salmon fillet arrived. When we pointed out the problem, our waiter took the salmon back to the

kitchen, where someone added teriyaki sauce and sent it back, now at room temperature. And then, when we were well into the main course, the last appetizer showed up. Or we thought it was the last appetizer—another was yet to come. Remember the miso mix-up? As we approached the end of our entrees, the server reappeared with a bowl of plain miso soup (not the *akadashi*) for me. I said, "No, thanks," but he left it on the table anyway. It stayed there, reproachfully, through dessert.

I was so bothered by this helter-skelter approach that I e-mailed T. R. Reid, the longtime Tokyo bureau chief for the *Washington Post*, to ask whether there might be some cultural reason for it—I had read, for example, that in some Japanese dining situations, all dishes are served at once. That's true, wrote Reid: "If you dine in a Japanese home, the entire meal, from miso soup to melon, is likely to be presented at once, often on a fancy tray. But you are still expected to eat the miso first, and then have the entrees, and then get to the melon. They have wonderfully intricate serving dishes with tops to keep the dishes warm." In restaurants sushi and tempura are eaten piecemeal at a bar, as soon as they are prepared. But, Reid continued, "I can't think of any cultural reason why a restaurant would serve the appetizer in the middle of the main course."

Cherry Blossom redeemed itself somewhat at lunch. On the board the day of our visit was a "kitchen special" and a "sushi special." This time there were two of us, so we decided to order one of each and share the lot.

Both proved to be well prepared and bounteous. The sushi lunch consisted of a spicy salmon and a California roll, *kitsune*



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Restaurant Reviews *continued*

udon (thick, slippery wheat noodles and a thin fish cake in a delicately sweet broth), and two plump *onigiri* rice balls, one stuffed with *ume* plum, the other with salty bonito flakes. The kitchen special was made up of that wonderful summer dish *hiyaukko*—cold tofu topped with impossibly thin slices of scallion and bonito flakes—as well as a big bowl of Tanuki soba. I love the earthiness of buckwheat soba noodles, and Cherry Blossom's, served in a rich broth and topped with a mix of tempura seafood and veggies, did not disappoint.

Lunch reminded me that even with the service problems, there is potential in this kitchen. And it does have a broader and more interesting menu than other Japanese restaurants in town. This is the owners' second Cherry Blossom (the other is in Novi), and they also own Cafe Sushi in Troy. Maybe that liquor license, which in mid-July they expected "any day," will provide the spark needed to get the place running on all cylinders.

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Disability-friendly

Pilar's Cafe

South-side pioneer

A gust of wind swooshed across Pilar's parking lot, lifting a corner of the brightly striped umbrella, tipping the metal table—and sending a bottle of hot sauce smashing to the pavement. In an instant, the boss herself dashed out from the kitchen to survey the scene. "Is everybody okay?" And seeing that the only damage was to the parking lot (and the sauce), Sylvia Nolasco-Rivers sighed in relief: "It's so windy on this side of town!"

Pilar's sits on the hilltop in the no man's land of South State Street, a stretch of disparate destinations between the Produce Station and Briarwood. In the rangy, single-story building that previously housed the Gourmet Garage, the new tenants have added a gently Latino flavor to the still somewhat garagey digs, with bright colors and a few tightly packed tables inside. The real dining room is outdoors, where a dozen or so tables beckon under colorful umbrellas. Take a cue from the uniquely charming

handcrafted sign that sits on top of the building, for these are adjectives that you can also apply to the food.

Pilar's Cafe came with a ready-made clientele. Nolasco-Rivers has won loyal fans through her tamale carts and catering business, as well as her exuberant charm. In opening the restaurant, she hired Jordan Green, a recent graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, as part of the kitchen talent. But mostly it's family run: Sylvia's mother, husband, and ten-year-old son are all part of the crew. Even Pilar, Sylvia's aunt and cooking mentor for whom the cafe is named, has come out of retirement to help. They offer home-style "traditional Salvadoran and Latin cuisine," with faint North American overtones.

Along with geography, an emphasis on healthy eating sets Pilar's apart. Before Sylvia and husband Joe Rivers started their catering and food-cart business in 2001, she worked at the People's Food Co-op. Those green roots show in the choice of vegetable shortening—never lard—and organic ingredients whenever available, as well as a good variety of non-meat dishes for vegetarians. Generally, the portions are moderate; the food doesn't leave you with that leaden feeling.

Pilar's is the antithesis of prefab fast food—even when the menu items have you thinking in that direction. The hamburgers, for instance, are grass-fed beef and grilled to order. Some of the best offerings, such as the black bean soup, are true slow foods. This outstanding soup begins with a layer of organic basmati rice topped by black beans long simmered in a vegetable stock and garnished with a slice of avocado and a squiggle of house-made *crema* (Salvadoran cream). The emphasis here is on homemade, whether it's the salsas, the *horchata* cinnamon-rice drink, or the strong hibiscus ice tea, which varies from batch to batch—sweet one day, tart the next.

Salvadoran style is an interesting change from the Mexican recipes that dominate the local Latin food scene. Sylvia gave me my first tutorial on the differences when I bought a tamale at her Farmers' Market cart. Both Salvadoran and Mexican tamales involve a stuffed, steamed dumpling of masa (cornmeal). But where Mexican tamales are wrapped in corn husks, Salvadorans use banana leaves, which allow for larger tamales. Salvadorans also use a different variety of fillings. At Pilar's Cafe these include chicken with red sauce, slow-roasted pork, and beef in molé sauce. Vegetarians can choose among black beans, corn, and mozzarella; vegan tempeh; and, my favorite, the tamales *con jalapeños y queso*. The last have just the right level of jalapeño-pepper heat coupled with a gooey richness of mozzarella. Like most dishes, the tamales come with a side of *curtido*, a light pickled cabbage slaw.

Chilaquiles is a dish that seems to have as many faces as it has cooks; no two takes are alike. When we arrived at Pilar's just after the 11 a.m. breakfast cutoff one Saturday, I ordered chilaquiles because I know it as a classic Mexican breakfast

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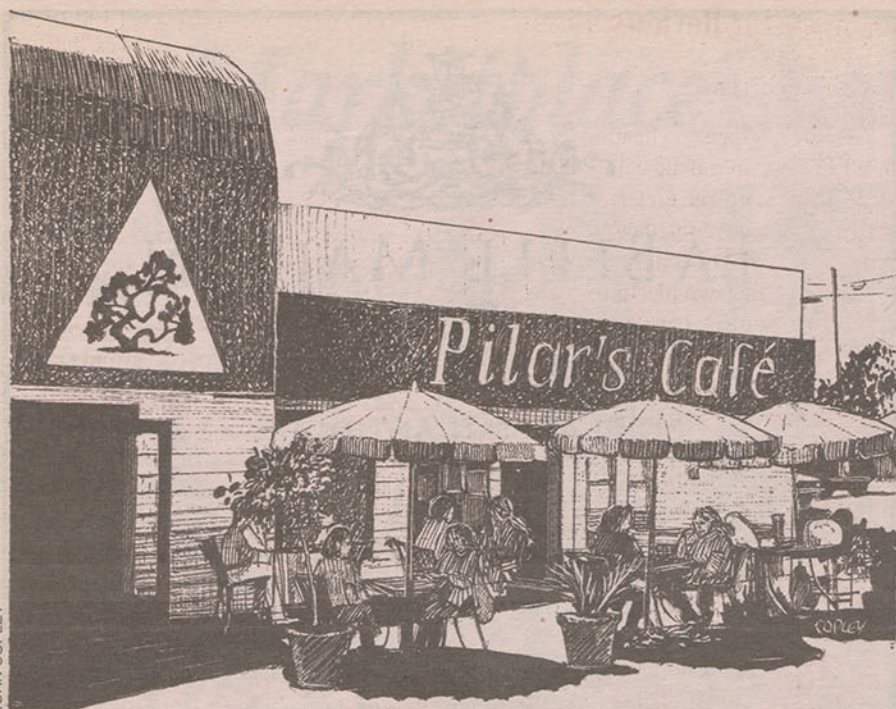
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JOHN COPLEY



casserole. Pilar's was good, but a new version to me—half tortillas stuffed with cheese, dipped in batter, panfried, and served with a red sauce. It's reminiscent of a quesadilla or even tortelloni in red sauce: delicious, yes—particularly that red sauce, which is light and full of fresh flavors—but not breakfasty.

So I just had to drop by at 9 a.m. a few days later to try the eggs with chorizo, one of the four actual breakfast plates. It turned out to be one of my favorite meals at Pilar's, though very simple—eggs scrambled with cheese and chorizo sausage, a couple of fat tortillas, and a side of caramelized plantains. It was a quiet point in the morning, and while I waited for breakfast outside, I did a little work that I'd brought along. Sitting by the kitchen window, I could watch a woman inside (maybe the real Pilar!) patting out the tortillas and then stamping them out one by one on the tortilla press.

With so few seats—especially in winter, when Pilar's loses its outdoor tables—carryout will be an essential fallback. Not all the food travels equally well. Dishes that involved tortillas—such as *pupusas* (stuffed, grilled tortillas) and *pasteles* (tortilla wraps filled with meat or cheese)—went a little rubbery. But the fried plantain chips with “Sylvia’s Secret Chili Powder” didn’t suffer one bit from their trip. The crisp plantains and the heat of the chili combine delightfully with summer nights and cerveza. The tamales and the classic beans and rice were very good, too, hitting just the right comfort note. Our group was split on the best traveler, *guisado de pollo*—a stew of chicken, green beans, carrots, and potatoes in a light tomato base. I found it underspiced, though several guests said it was their favorite. I had wanted my friends to try the pineapple upside-down cake, a not-too-sweet, relatively wholesome sort of dessert, but it was left out of our large and complicated order (though it made it onto the check).

While the takeaway has high points, the best way to enjoy Pilar's is in house,

where you can soak up the atmosphere and appreciate the food at its freshest. These two elements have helped to make the cafe an early success. It has the potential to transform that unremarkable stretch of South State into the kind of city landmark that has the locals referring to the area as “you know, over near Pilar’s.”

Pilar's Cafe
2285 South State 913-2659

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\$6.95–\$7.50; desserts \$2.50–\$6.25;
children's menu \$1.95–\$3.25

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Quick Bites

One of Ann Arbor's most storied wine cellars has moved—yet again. The collection began life under the hand of restaurateur Tony Perault when he and then-wife Maureen owned **Escoffier**. In 1988 it became the first Ann Arbor restaurant to win *Wine Spectator's* highest honor, the Grand Award. But after Tony and Maureen split up, Tony moved about 90 percent of the cellar west to California, where he had leased a restaurant from the owners of the Post Ranch Inn in a remote stretch of the Big Sur coastline. The 5,000 bottles made the trip in a refrigerated semi. “I don’t think we lost a single bottle,” Tony Perault told me during a visit last fall.

In 1992 Tony and his wife, Tricia, opened the doors of the Sierra Mar restaurant. They won a host of honors for the cuisine at Sierra Mar and more Grand Awards for the wine cellar, which grew to more than 20,000 bottles. But after

fourteen years, they decided it was time to move on. In late April the Post Ranch Inn bought out the remainder of the Peraults’ restaurant contract, as well as roughly 8,500 bottles of wine. “Unfortunately, they didn’t buy it all,” Tony says. So he spent most of May schlepping the remaining 12,000 or so bottles of wine up the coast to Pacific Grove, where they are temporarily housed in the Peraults’ basement. He dedicated much of June and July to reorganizing and cataloguing the 980 cases after the move. Tony says he and Tricia don’t plan on getting back into the restaurant business, so this is just a stopover for the wine. He’d prefer to sell it as a collection.

—Bix Engels

Joshua Taylor has been the chef at the **Bella Ciao** only since March, but he brings an impressive resume to the job: 650 hours of training at the French Culinary Institute in Manhattan, followed by internships at Ilo and Oceana in New York. Most recently he was sous chef and assistant sommelier at Moto in Chicago, known for its avant-garde “science food.”

Science food? “People have eaten the same way for thousands of years, so we were trying to invent new ways to ingest things,” says Taylor. That included “aromatic utensils” with a container in the handle for herbs or spices, not actually to be eaten, but to provide another sensory dimension to the food. For instance, for a pear-and-fennel salad, they loaded the gadget with rosemary and garlic. They also created carbonated grapes and oysters, which “pop like champagne when you eat them.” Taylor had to sign a confidentiality agreement not to disclose Moto’s method for making one of its signature dishes—edible paper flavored like a maki roll, made on an inkjet printer.

Like most novelties, that one eventually paled. “It was interesting to play around with these things—it was more like a laboratory than a kitchen, and sometimes I felt like a mad scientist,” Taylor says. “But eventually I got the urge to cook more traditional foods again.” Since he’s basically a hometown guy—a 1994 graduate of Saline High—Ann Arbor was an obvious move.

Asked about his approach to food now, Taylor says he is striving to use as much organic and locally grown produce as he can find. He’s also infusing Bella Ciao’s mainly northern Italian cuisine with some of the French influences from his classical training. So what’s his best dish? At the moment, he says, it’s roasted marinated lamb loin with Gorgonzola risotto, char-grilled asparagus, and morels, sauced with a reduction of lamb juices, balsamic vinegar, and orange. And none of it’s made on an inkjet.

—Bix Engels

—Bix Engels

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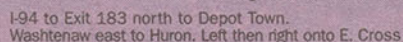
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Marketplace Changes

A cake shop near Kerrytown

Courtney Clark's edible art

When Courtney Clark began studying at the Art Institute of Chicago, she imagined a career working with gouache and pastels. But a school project creating edible art followed by a switch to the city's French Pastry School changed her focus from the studio to the kitchen. Three years after graduating, Clark is a professional pastry chef whose media of choice are fondant and gum paste. Her intricate, imaginative wedding, birthday, graduation, and bar and bat mitzvah cakes are undeniably works of art.

Clark started out working for the Moveable Feast; she moved her custom cake business to her home after the caterer relocated to Manchester. In no time the business had taken over her life—and her modest kitchen. After looking for a commercial space for over a year, she heard that Alice Liberson was moving her Fourth Avenue pet boutique Dogma-Catmantoo one door down, leaving Dogma's original spot available. In August she's opening **Cake Nouveau**, a combination commercial kitchen and cafe where Clark will serve cakes by the slice, cupcakes, cookies, flavored hot and iced coffee, hot chocolate, and milk. "You can't serve cake without milk," she says.

A purist as well as an artist, Clark eschews shortening and oils in favor of butter, sugar, flour, and natural flavorings and purees. Her cakes, a few of which will be available by the slice each day, include traditional vanilla and chocolate variations as well as lemon butter cake, spice cake, coconut cake, and cakes whose bases or icings are flavored with fancy ingredients like green tea, peppermint, pineapple,



Courtney Clark transferred from the Art Institute of Chicago to the city's French Pastry School.

caramel mousseline cream, and tangerines.

Some of Clark's favorite cakes are the custom orders, like the two-foot-long replica of Michigan Stadium that took, she estimates, about thirty-five hours to create. Another cake, five tiers in feminine shades of pink, was crowned with an edible replica of Tiffany's distinctive turquoise jewelry box. Clark's fine arts training is evident in cakes decorated with crisp polka dots, harlequin diamonds, fanciful Dr. Seuss-like stripes, and delicate William Morris-style vines, all created with smooth, shiny fondant icing. One cake, looking like something fashioned for the cast of *Sex in the City*, is shaped like a designer handbag. In addition to custom orders, Cake Nouveau will also sell a selection of fully decorated cakes from its display case.

Cake Nouveau, 206 North Fourth Avenue, 944-6943. Probable hours Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.



Inspired by San Francisco's produce market cafes, partners Rick Peshkin and Craig Schmidt launched the Produce Station Cafe on South State.

The Produce Station adds a cafe

Anyone for grilled vegetable gâteau?

Craig Schmidt, co-owner of the Produce Station, was impressed by the successful produce market cafes he visited in San Francisco—so impressed, he decided to launch one at the Produce Station upon his return. The **Produce Station Cafe** opened early this summer, a lovely indoor-outdoor seating area where market customers can sit while eating whatever they've bought from the store or from the hot and cold bar, or ordered from the menu.

A modest front porch at the building's entrance has been transformed by employees Mark Schmidt and Tim Basso with a bubbling water fountain, flowers, wall hangings, and half a dozen tables. Outside, more tables are set among lush plants. Both have the feeling of dining in a hidden garden, with the traffic of nearby State Street masked from view by statuary and greenery.

Both the hot and cold bar and the menus make imaginative use of the store's bountiful produce in sandwiches (garlic-roasted eggplant topped with fresh basil aioli; pan-seared tenderloin topped with Boursin, baby arugula, and roasted peppers), salads (grilled endive and radicchio with fresh peaches and grape tomatoes; saffron-poached chicken on greens with figs and kiwi), and entrees (grilled vegetable gâteau with polenta, wasabi-grilled ahi tuna with snow peas and sesame noodles). The cafe serves Sunday brunch, too, from a menu that includes cheese blintzes, frittatas, French toast, waffles, smoked bacon, freshly baked biscuits, and herb-roasted potatoes.



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Marketplace Changes *continued*

Customers buy their food and drinks inside (either by cruising the store and picking up what they want or by ordering from the bakery kiosk) and wait in the cafe for their order to be delivered. There's a new menu each week that always includes two vegetarian and two nonvegetarian choices.

The Produce Station started in the 1980s as a modest retail outlet for Rick Peshkin's Frog Holler wholesale produce business. Over the years, Schmidt and Peshkin have expanded the store to include a tempting panoply of prepared foods and gourmet edibles. (Frog Holler, which supplies many local restaurants, is now based in a warehouse on State Circle.) Every summer, the Produce Station also sets up a satellite garden center offering bedding plants and flowers. This year it's on Washtenaw across from Whole Foods.

The Produce Station and the Produce Station Cafe, 1629 South State, 663-7848. Store hours Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Cafe hours Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Cafe closed Sat.

The Produce Station Garden Center, 3120 Washtenaw, no phone. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Tree Town Toys will replace White Rabbit

JoAnn Barrett gives her blessing

Many north-side shoppers were saddened by the midsummer closing of **White Rabbit Toys** in Traver Village, but White Rabbit owner JoAnn Barrett hopes they'll embrace the new store taking White Rabbit's place. Hans and Tricia Masing are opening **Tree Town Toys** in the former White Rabbit space. The new toy store will even display the "Bigwood Fire Dept." wooden fire truck from White Rabbit. "I gave it to them as a gift," Barrett says. "Things like a toy store closing, depending on a child's age, can be really confusing. They have a real sense of loss. I wanted them to have something familiar when the new store opens."

The heartfelt gesture is typical of Barrett, who opened White Rabbit fourteen years ago. At its peak, White Rabbit had three stores, but web sales have been eroding brick-and-mortar toy sales for some time. "In order to be a viable Internet presence, and it takes a lot of your time," Barrett says. "I really didn't love that part of it, so I started looking around at what else I wanted to do."

Barrett got her real estate license last year and has established a new career at Edward Surovell Realtors. It's a good fit, she says, because her brother has a doctor-

ate in architecture and her family has always loved homes. "I figure I'm just about the luckiest person in Ann Arbor, because I had the best job with White Rabbit, and now I'm doing something else I've always wanted to do," she says. "I'm very blessed."

The Masings are going into the business with an already-established Internet presence—they've been selling toys through a website called Brain Station (brain-station.com). For Hans, who teaches information technology, and Tricia, a former engineer at Ford, the on-line store was simply a warm-up to opening a brick-and-mortar shop. "We didn't realize the chance to open a store would happen so quickly," Tricia says, "but an opportunity came up, and we grabbed it."

Keller Masing, age six, and Simone Masing, age three, are not just the inspiration for the store but its product testers as well. After the kids were born, Hans and Tricia couldn't find quite the right mix of toys in town, so they turned to the Internet. Starting Brain Station, and now Tree Town, was an opportunity to bring more quality toys to Ann Arbor—and for Tricia, who was growing disillusioned by the automotive industry, to find an entrepreneurial career. "I wanted to make the decisions that make or break the company, not have to sit there watching while things weren't going well," she laughs.

Tricia says that she and her family loved White Rabbit, and that many things—including that wooden fire truck—will feel familiar to shoppers. Tree Town will continue to sell many of White Rabbit's most popular items, including Breyer horses and Melissa & Doug wooden puzzles and toys. The Masings will also be bringing in new items like Madame Alexander dolls, modular castle sets, and Automoblox—wooden cars that can be taken apart and reassembled. "Every specialty toy store is unique. That's one of the great things about the business," she explains. "Coming from a technical background, I love science kits and construction toys—anything you can build. Hans loves knights and dragons, and Lego. I think some of our taste will show through in the products."

Tree Town plans to open in August. As before, the store has a private room for birthday parties, demonstrations, and other events.

Tree Town Toys, 2611 Plymouth Road (Traver Village), phone unavailable at press time. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Computer supplies behind Argiero's

David Issel's historic dilemma

David Issel has waded through 200-page contracts in order to become a supplier of ink, toner, and other computer supplies to the government. He's filled out reams of paperwork necessary to be honorably discharged from the Marine Reserves after being injured in Iraq. But at

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the moment, Issel is nonplussed by the loops he needs to jump through in order to get a sign outside his new **National Computer Supply**. The store, on Fifth Avenue just east of Argiero's restaurant, is in a designated historic building. Issel can't simply climb a ladder and hang a sign; he has to apply for a permit and hire a city-authorized tradesperson to do the actual mounting. "This is the busy season for government contracts," Issel says. "I don't have time to do it right now."

Issel has been selling office supplies out of his home and over the Internet for several years, but after he left the reserves, he wanted to capture local commercial business with a retail space. The new store has the additional benefit of being in a HUBZone, defined by the federal government as a historically underutilized business district; the aim is to stimulate economic development in HUBZones by awarding federal contracts to companies that put their principal offices there. Issel says it's too soon to tell how lucrative that move will be—the store just opened in early July.

National Computer Supply specializes in ink and toner cartridges, but it sells over 39,000 items Issel arranges to have drop-shipped from his suppliers. Those items include CDs, DVDs, paper, pens, computer accessories, coffee for office coffee-makers, furniture—pretty much anything, Issel says, customers would expect to find at a big-box store like Staples or Office-Max. Because he has so little overhead, Issel says, he can offer customers substantial savings over the big guys. And, like the competition, he delivers.

National Computer Supply, 301 North Fifth Avenue, 827-2255. Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun.

Briefly Noted

The Planet, arguably Ann Arbor's most alternative store, has moved from its original second-floor location on South University to the former Natural Canvas Gallery space on North Main. Photographer Adam Winnie and tattoo artist Chadness William opened the collaborative Natural Canvas last year, but according to the Planet's Adam de Angeli, they found the gallery portion of the business too time consuming. William's Natural Canvas tattoo business remains in the building, and Winnie is creating a new gallery space, the Dungeon Gallery, in his house next door.

De Angeli and his partners originally conceived the Planet as an "infoshop"—part retail store selling free-trade merchandise, graffiti supplies, and counterculture books and magazines, and part meeting place; de Angeli calls it "a rallying point for resistance." The shop hosted open-mike nights, screenings, book tour appearances, and lectures, but after eighteen months, patrons were still having trouble finding the place, and rent for the campus location remained difficult to scrounge up. When the store reached the end of its lease, North Main offered a more affordable spot.

The new location isn't set up to host

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- tennis rackets
- building materials
- sofas
- dining room sets
- light fixtures
- televisions
- garden tools
- brass door knobs
- bikes
- bed frames
- patio sets
- chairs
- doors
- lumber
- electronics
- books

Marketplace Changes continued

events yet, but it sells a growing selection of conspiracy-theory literature, graffiti paint and supplies, and locally produced merchandise, including jewelry, books, music, patches, artwork, shirts, magazines, greeting cards, stickers, and Impeach Bush yard signs.

The Planet, 613 North Main, 972-9224. Mon.-Sat. 2-10 p.m. Closed Sun.

Taha Abukaff has turned over his bakery spot on Packard near Platt to his friend Frank Zeidan, who opened **Zeidan Bakery & Cafe** there in early July. Zeidan, who has worked for Zingerman's, runs the business alongside his twenty-one-year-old daughter, Fay. They offer Middle Eastern fare (shawarma, falafel, tabbouleh, fat-toush, tawook, hummus, baba ghanoush, grape leaves) as well as deli subs and salads. There is also a tempting variety of sweets and pastries.

Zeidan Bakery & Cafe, 3198 Packard, 677-2233. Mon.-Sat. 7 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Sun. 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

The **Americana Coney Island** on Michigan Avenue near US-23 has become the **Sunshine Family Restaurant**, with a new owner and a similarly broad menu of casual American fare.

Sunshine Family Restaurant, 5800 West Michigan, 528-9550. Mon.-Sat. 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Sun. 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Closings

Despite a sign on the **Cottage Inn Cafe** on Washtenaw that says it's under renovation, the restaurant has closed and is up for sale. The \$1.29 million price includes the land, the building (built in 1973, last renovated in 1984), all interior fixtures, and the cafe's liquor license. Owner Sam Roumanis wasn't available for comment. Ann Arbor's Original Cottage Inn on William and the Cottage Inn pizza delivery locations remain open—they are separate businesses, under different ownership from the cafe.

Ann Arbor's logy real estate market is having a trickle-down effect on area home goods retailers. Dave Good, who ran **Ann Arbor Kitchens** for nine years at the Colonnade and another four on Jackson Road, says the kitchen and bath business is down 75 percent. His solution: moving his company from its retail storefront to his home office, from which he'll provide the same design services. "The inventory and display costs in a business like this are huge," he says. "I can't compete with a lot of overhead in a bad economy." Ann Arbor Kitchens will keep its phone number, 761-6880.

Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, the Marketplace Changes column featured eight new businesses. Since then only two of them have closed: **Messina's Italian Deli**, inside the also-defunct Miller's Market on Dexter Road; and **Only the Best**, a used-clothing store on Jackson. The survivors are **The Broken Egg** breakfast and lunch restaurant at Main and Miller; **Eastern Accents** Asian bakery and cafe on South Fourth Avenue; **General Nutrition Center (GNC)** at Traver Village; **T. J. Maxx** at Carpenter Plaza; **The Avenue**, a plus-size-clothing store in Westgate Shopping Center; and the **Creekside Tavern**, which burned down not long after announcing its impending opening, but has since been rebuilt.

August 1996 survival rate: 75 percent

Five years ago this month, we covered ten retail and restaurant openings. Apparently it's been a tough five years—only three of those businesses are still around today: **Batteries Plus** on Packard, **Leisure Works** spa store on Jackson Road, and the convenience store on Ann Arbor-Saline Road, which was then called **Baxter's of Lodi** but is now under new ownership as **Tippins**.

The casualties are **Mi Tierra**, a short-lived Mexican eatery in what has proved to be a hard-luck location off the lobby of 301 East Liberty; Indonesian furniture boutique **Liberty Street Trading Company**; convenience store **Buster's Express** on Packard; **General Nutrition Center (GNC)** on William near State; **All Seasons Spas, Fireplaces & More** in Oak Valley Centre; and international musical instrument shop **Kayu**, then on Liberty. Kayu later moved to Westgate, where a sister store, **Ethnic Creations**, survives.

August 2001 survival rate: 30 percent

One year ago this month, this column told you about eight new businesses. Only one of them, **Pita Kabob Grill** on East William, didn't make it to its first anniversary. Still open: campus pizza joint **Za's** on East University; office supply store **Staples** at Westgate Shopping Center; New Orleans-inspired restaurant **Quarter Bistro** on Maple near Kroger; the **West-side Farmers' Market**, now in its second year in the Zingerman's Roadhouse parking lot; restaurant, wine bar, and wine shop **Vinology** on Main Street; **Super Liquor IV** on South State; and alternative "info-shop" **The Planet**, now in a new location on North Main (see Briefly Noted, above).

August 2005 survival rate: 88 percent

—Laura McReynolds

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send e-mail to lauramcreynolds@tds.net or leave voice mail at 769-3175, extension 364.

The Zingerman's Times

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August 2006

Printed in Ann Arbor

Land of a thousand flavors



...in the news

Espresso Boot Camp

August 18th and 19th

Reports say Zingerman's roastmaster Allen Leibowitz and Andrew Hetzel, a Hawaii-based coffee consultant and World Barista Championship judge, will lead four-hour, hands-on workshops teaching the skills needed to make professional-quality espresso drinks. Sources say this is the place for coffee pros to learn the tips and tricks that turn a good cup into a great one. Details: zingermanscoffee.com.

Rare, Award-Winning Coffee Arrives in Ann Arbor

Brazilian Santa Terezinha

Insiders report Zingerman's has secured a coveted Cup of Excellence (cupofexcellence.org) auction lot of beans courtesy of Chicago's famed Intelligentsia Coffee. Incredibly complex, with a strong berry fragrance, a sweet, bright taste, and a rich, lingering finish, it is available in limited quantities and sources say it won't last the month.

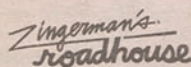


august special

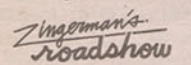
Rustic Italian Round

\$3.50/ea (reg. \$5.25/ea)

Traditional Italian bread. Crusty outside. Soft, slightly sweet inside.



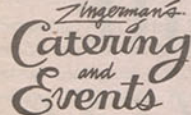
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663.FOOD



2501 Jackson Rd.
929.0332



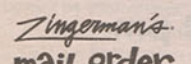
422 Detroit St.
663.DELI



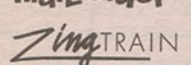
422 Detroit St.
663.3400



3711 Plaza Dr.
761.2095



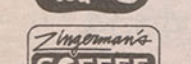
422 Detroit St.
888.636.8162



PO Box 1837
930.1919



3723 Plaza Dr.
929.0500



422 Detroit St.
929.6060

www.Zingermans.com

Zingerman's creamery a farmers' market leader

Zingerman's Creamery is bringing fresh, hand-made cheese to a growing population of local cheeseheads at Ann Arbor's Westside Farmer's Market, the *Times* has learned.

Sources say the six-person enterprise features a great selection of cheese at the conveniently located Thursday afternoon market which runs in the Zingerman's Roadhouse parking lot from 3 to 7 pm.

After generating crowds five-deep at its downtown Saturday Farmers' Market booth, the Creamery saw the

Thursday market as a logical way to make great cheese even easier to get.

Its traditionally made cream cheese—dubbed "Excellent" by the *New York Times*—is drawing crowds, as is its fresh mozzarella (only a few hours old at the market) and goat cheese.

Sources say that fans of hand-crafted cheeses who can't get to the markets are heading out to the Creamery retail shop (3723 Plaza Drive, just down the walk

really good milk makes a splash at zingerman's

Though almost everyone thinks they know what milk tastes like, the *Times* has discovered that Zingerman's customers are finding out just how good milk can be.

Sources say full-flavor milk from Calder Dairy in Carleton, MI, is flowing throughout the Zingerman's community of businesses—from the coffee drinks at the Next Door and the Roadshow to all the cow's milk cheeses from Zingerman's Creamery, including its award-winning traditional cream cheese and its popular Manchester and Sharon Hollow.

zingtimes special offer

During the first week of August, say 'Moo!' when placing your order at Zingerman's Next Door and receive a free small Rice Pudding (made great with Calder milk)!

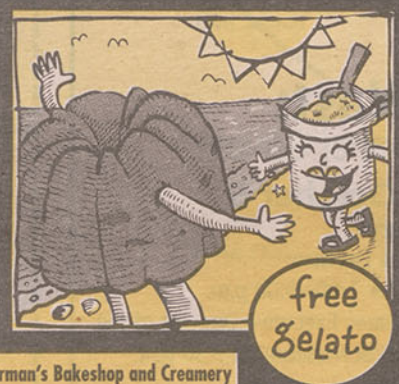
You really can taste the difference!

Founded by John Calder, Sr., in 1946, Calder Dairy, sources say, is one of only twelve farmstead milk bottlers in the entire state. Rather than blending its milk with that of dozens of other dairies at a distribution center, Calder sends milk straight from its 120-cow herd to Zingerman's. Additionally, sources report that the milk is BGH-free and pasteurized at the lowest possible temperature to protect the character of the milk.

have you had your summer fling?

It's an affair to remember on the city's south side! During August, when you buy a large Summer Fling Coffeecake—chockfull of real coconut and lime—at Zingerman's Bakeshop, bring your receipt and this ad to the Creamery for a free LARGE container (12 ounces!) of coconut gelato!

Offer available only at Zingerman's Bakeshop and Creamery



taste of tantre farms summer feast

Deli Big Top Tent

Thursday, August 24, 7pm

This annual event unites Tantre's amazing local produce and the inspired talents of the Deli kitchen. Richard and family from Tantre join Rodger and the Deli crew for a celebration of the local, the sustainable, and the absolutely delicious. Call 663-3345 for reservations.

\$35 in advance/\$40 at the door

attack of the killer tomatoes!

Roadhouse Heirloom Tomato Harvest Dinner

Tuesday, August 22, 7pm

Roadhouse Chef Alex Young is harvesting nearly an astounding forty-seven varieties of heirloom tomatoes from his garden and hosting a dinner featuring the fruits of his labor. Call 663-3663 to reserve a spot at the table!

\$39 for dinner/\$19 for wine pairings



Customers who can't make it to the Thursday or Saturday farmers' markets are heading to the Creamery's Plaza Drive retail shop for great deals like Mozzarella Mondays, Cream Cheese Tuesdays, and Gelato Wednesdays.

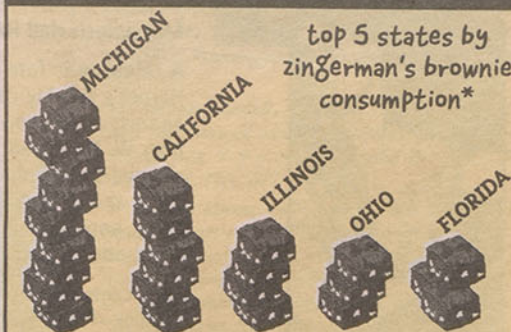
secret roadhouse fried chicken society exposed!

The *Times* reports that officials have discovered a fried-chicken cabal meeting regularly at Zingerman's Roadhouse. Drawn by the incredibly flavorful organic Amish chicken—"crisp but light on the outside with perfectly cooked meat underneath," according to group member Annmarie Rubin—they have been actively bringing in new recruits, sources say.

Using a simple communications system that includes lip smacking, tummy patting, and frequent outbursts of "oh my!" when tasting the chicken, the group is actively recruiting new members. The *Times* has learned that once one table orders the Roadhouse fried chicken, surrounding diners quickly follow their lead until the restaurant is practically full of fried-chicken lovers.

Reports also indicate that the Roadhouse is actively encouraging the group with special offers. Sources say that throughout August, when anyone who orders the fried-chicken mentions this article, their entire table shares a FREE Pimento Cheese appetizer.

magic brownie nation



*Data Source: Zingerman's Mail Order
zingermans.com or 888-636-8162

Times readers! Use code 26PC0702 and take 10% off your brownie supply shipment or anything else you'd like. Order as many times as you can before the offer expires August 31. (Offer not valid on Gift Cards or sale items. Offer valid only at Zingerman's Mail Order.)

Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club Learn-to-Skate Group Lessons/Fall Session

Registration Starts August 1st, 2006

(Classes held at the Cube)

New to figure skating or hockey? The AAFSC invites you to become a part of the area's most extensive skating programs. Build your skills with our Learn-to-Skate program, or for the more advanced skaters, join the excitement of being a Shooting Star.

We welcome you to the Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club.

Fall Learn-to-Skate Classes Starting September 5th

Registration starting August 1st

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays

Shooting Stars starting September 9th

Registration starting August 1st



Class fees do not include AAFSC membership fee or administrative fee. Classes are offered for kids and adults of all ages. Classes are held at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube. Register at the Ann Arbor Figure Skating Office during business hours. (M-F 11am-5pm) Skates are available for all classes at no charge.

AAFSC (in the Ice Cube) • 2121 Oak Valley Dr.
734-213-6768 • www.annarborfsc.com

Sorry, no telephone registration.

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Presents The International Youth Symphony Orchestra



Special 40th Anniversary Concert
Wednesday, August 2nd at 7:30 p.m.
Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor
Free Admission

**Alumni
Campers
Welcome**



Thomas Nast: The Lightning Bolt of Genius August 29 – October 5

Kreft Center Gallery

Opening Reception & Lecture:

Thursday, September 7 • 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Lecture by David Breslauer, Executive Director of the Macculloch Hall Historical Museum, at 7:30 p.m.

A celebrity in late 19th c., Thomas Nast used his Harper's Weekly cartoons to successfully crusade against corruption and New York City's political boss W. M. Tweed; devised the Tammany Tiger, created the elephant as the symbol of Republican Party, the donkey as the symbol of the Democratic Party, popularized the images of Uncle Sam, and the modern American image of the Santa Claus.

Kreft Center Gallery Hours:

Tuesday–Friday 12–4 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday 1–5 p.m.
Closed Monday

Images courtesy of the Macculloch Hall Historical Museum, Morristown, NJ.

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August Events

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

By mail: John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

By fax: 769-3375 or 769-4950.

By e-mail: hinch@aobserver.com

After-hours drop box: right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:

The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com**. This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

★ Denotes no admission charge.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

1 TUESDAY

★**"Whitmore Lake Brunch Ride":** Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Tuesday. Slow/moderate-paced ride, 20-39 miles, to a nearby town for brunch. 9 a.m. (Aug. 1 & 8) & 8:30 a.m. (Aug. 15, 22, & 29), meet at the Park & Ride lot on 9 Mile Rd. at US-23, exit 54, Whitmore Lake. Free. 449-2026 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★**Preschool Storytimes:** Ann Arbor District Library. Stories and songs for kids age 3 & up (accompanied by an adult). Note: These storytimes are also offered at the Pittsfield (August 1, 10-10:30 a.m., & August 3, 11-11:30 a.m.), Malletts Creek (August 2, 10-10:30 & 11-11:30 a.m.), and Northeast (August 3, 9:30-10 & 11-11:30 a.m.) branches. 10-10:30 a.m. & 4-4:30 p.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301 (main library), 327-4200 (branches).

★**Scrabble:** Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Tuesday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular word game. 10 a.m.-noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

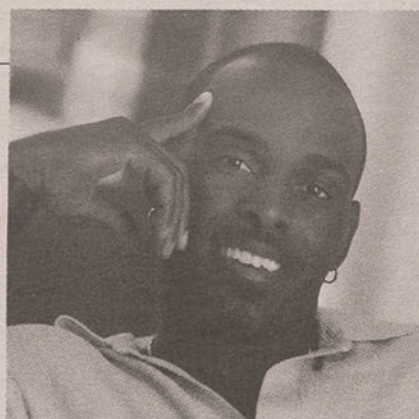
★**Jewish Older Adults:** Jewish Community Center. Every Tuesday. All seniors invited to participate in the social discussion group "Let's Talk About." Followed by mah-jongg (noon-2 p.m.). Also, on August 15, Susie Silver Fink hosts creative crafts (1-3 p.m.) to help participants do a knitting project. 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

★**"A Morning of Musicplay":** Ann Arbor District Library. U-M music education professor Herbert David Marshall leads a program of movement, play, and song for infants through preschoolers. 11-11:45 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Music in the Park":** Herb David Guitar Studio. Every Monday-Saturday. Musical entertainment by a variety of local performers TBA. Noon-2 p.m., Liberty Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Division. Free. 665-8001.



The Playboy of the Western World, Aug. 3-6



Ty Barnett, Aug. 17-19

GALLERIES

60 Exhibit Openings Laura Bien

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53 Honus & Me Home run! Sally Mitani

62 Blood Simple Texas noir Dan Moray

67 Del Castillo Rock goes Latin James M. Manheim

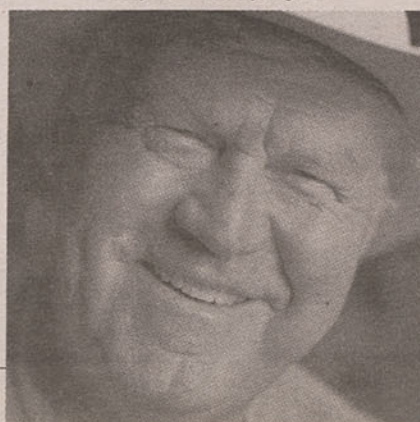
71 NOMO Vampires, beware! Whit Hill

100 Events at a Glance

Suzy Bogguss, Aug. 25



Billy Joe Shaver, Aug. 26



Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Tuesday & Wednesday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. 12:45-3:30 p.m. (Wed.) & 9:30-11:30 a.m. (Tues.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. 25¢ contribution for prizes. 769-5911.

"The Sky Tonight"/"Larry Cat in Space": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Daily. The Sky Tonight (11:30 a.m. Saturdays only and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. daily) is an audiovisual exploration of the current night sky. Larry Cat in Space (12:30 p.m. Saturdays only and 2:30 p.m. daily) is an audiovisual show about a cat that learns more than it knew it wanted to know about life in space when it stows away on a shuttle to be with its owner, a female scientist on her way to the Moon. Followed by a brief star talk. 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$3.75. 764-0478.

★**"Botanical Bags":** Ann Arbor District Library. All youths in grades 6-12 invited to make images on cloth using natural pigments in green ferns and grass, flowers, and other plants. Bring something of your own to embellish (cotton works best), or use a library tote bag. 2-4 p.m., AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327-4200.

★**"Big Sky Ride":** Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Tuesday. Moderate-paced ride, 20-35 miles, along flat, relatively quiet picturesque roads south of Ann Arbor. 6 p.m., meet at York Baptist Church, 1220 Stony Creek Rd. at Platt. Free. 971-5763 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★**"Huron River Ride":** Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Tuesday. Slow/moderate-paced ride, 18-40 miles, to Dexter and back. 6 p.m., meet at Rudolf Steiner School, 1655 Newport Rd. Free. 424-9765 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★**Children's Movie:** Arborland Borders. Every Saturday. Kids (accompanied by a parent) invited to bring teddy bears and watch a family film TBA. Popcorn. 6 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6948.

★**"Knit Happens":** Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch. Every Tuesday. All knitters invited to bring their current projects to work on and swap knitting tips. 6:30-8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945-3035.

★**Ann Arbor FrontRunners.** Every Tuesday & Thursday. Gay, lesbian, and straight runners invited to choose a distance of 3-5 miles to run with FrontRunners members. 6:30 p.m., meet at Furstenberg Park, off Fuller Rd. across from Huron High School. Free. 741-1763.

★**Ann Arbor Area Writer's Group:** Arborland Borders. Every Tuesday. All local writers invited to bring samples of their writing to read and discuss. Observers welcome. 7-9 p.m., Borders computer section, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449-9394.

★**Spanish Readers Group:** Nicola's Books. All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of Santa Evita, Tomas Eloy Martinez's historical novel about the aftermath of Eva Peron's death in Argentina. 7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-0600.

"Attaining Lasting Satisfaction": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. Every Tuesday. Talks by Gehlek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. Tonight's topic: "Why Think about Death?" Also this month: "Are You My Mother?" (August 8), "The Purity in Purification" (August 15), "Fear Factor" (August 22), "From Habit to Awareness" (August 29). 7-8:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. \$10 (students & seniors, \$5). 994-3387.

★**Common Thread.** August 1 & 15. All invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. 7-9 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6948.

★**"Family Camp-In":** Ann Arbor District Library. August 1 & 3 (different branch locations). A family-oriented evening of sing-alongs and interactive storytelling with AADL librarians. Bring a blanket. Refreshments. In conjunction with the library's "Reading Is an Art" summer reading programs. 7-8 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch (Aug. 1), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.; & Malletts Creek Branch (Aug. 3), 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. Reading by Detroit poet La Shaun Phoenix Moore. Also, open-mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologists in verse, and a "poetry slam," in which poets read one

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All Tickets On Sale Monday, August 21!

Amalia Hernández'
Ballet Folklórico de México

Alice Coltrane Quartet: *Translinear Light*

Emerson String Quartet

**Marian McPartland Trio
and Bill Charlap Trio**

Martha Graham Dance Company

Florestan Trio

Kirov Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre
Valery Gergiev conductor

Royal Shakespeare Company
Antony and Cleopatra
Julius Caesar
The Tempest

Trio Mediaeval

Dan Zanes

Jonathan Biss piano

Cuarteto Latinoamericano
Manuel Barrueco guitar

London Philharmonic
Kurt Masur conductor
Sarah Chang violin

Handel's *Messiah*

Takács Quartet

Bright Sheng's *Silver River*

Sekou Sundiata's *the 51st (dream) state*

The Chieftains

Big 3 Palladium Orchestra

Joshua Bell violin

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

Stephen Petronio Dance Company

Time for Three

Dave Holland Octet and Big Band

Midori violin

Tamango's Urban Tap

**Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
and Wynton Marsalis**

Gilberto Gil

Murray Perahia piano

Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France
Myung-Whun Chung conductor

Rahim AlHaj and Souhail Kaspar

Canadian Brass

Pablo Ziegler Quintet for New Tango
Claudia Acuña vocalist

David Krakauer's Klezmer Madness

Measha Brueggergosman soprano

John Williams and John Etheridge

Jerusalem String Quartet

Netherlands Bach Society: *Bach's Mass in b minor*
Jos von Veldhoven artistic director

Trinity Irish Dance Company

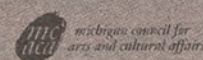
Los Folkloristas



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August 2006 EVENTS

Ann Arbor District Library



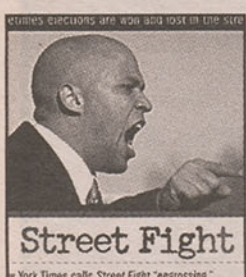
Tuesday **1**
10:00 - 10:45 am
11:00 - 11:45 am

MusicPlay! Begin a Lifelong Journey with Music • Led by UM music educator **Herbert Marshall** • Cosponsored by the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts
For infants through preschoolers • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room



Wednesday **2**
10:00 - 10:30 am

Magic Carpet Mornings: Harpbeat's **Donna Novack** presents **Animal Fun House**, an interactive musical performance
Age 2 & up with adult • Liberty Plaza
Rain location Downtown Multi-Purpose Room



Saturday **5**
Noon - 3:00 pm

Pinhole Photography for Teens with photographer **Matt Callow**
Grades 6 - 12 • Malletts Creek Branch



Tuesday **8**
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Wild Chef • Chef Chewy of Monahan's Seafood Market creates wild and crazy food • Grades 6 - 12 • Malletts Creek Branch



Wednesday **9**
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Urban Containers • Bring your own plant containers to decorate and add plants provided by Abbott's Nursery • Pittsfield Branch



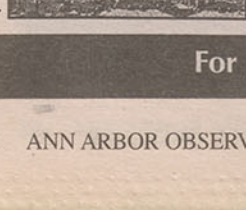
Friday **11**
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Film: Oscar nominated documentary **Street Fight** • Not Rated
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room



Saturday **12**
Noon - 5:00 pm

Claymation Workshop for Teens with animator **Brad Patullo**
Grades 6 - 12 • To register, call 327.8301
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room



Monday **14**
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Night and Day: A Miniature Book Making Workshop with **Jean Buescher Bartlett** • Adults & youth age 10 & up
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Tuesday **15**
7:00 - 8:00 pm

Suzuki Tour Concert: Vivaldi Strings of the **Wheaton College Community School of the Arts** • Pittsfield Branch

Tuesday **15**
7:00 - 8:30 pm

The Health of the Great Lakes Today with a panel of Great Lakes scientists • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Saturday **19**
noon - 5:00 pm

AADL-GT Super Smash Double Dash Championship Series
Grades 6 - 12 • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Monday **21**
10:00 am

National Traveling Exhibit Opens: New York, September 11 by **Magnum Photographers** • Through October 11
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room & 3rd Floor Exhibit

Wednesday **23**
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Panel Discussion: Celebrating Women Artists • Local artists discuss the '70s feminist art movement and the *Off the Wall Gallery* banners throughout downtown Ann Arbor
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Thursday **24**
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Artist **Margaret Parker** demonstrates how to transform your T-shirt into a work of art • Malletts Creek Branch

Wednesday **30**
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Cinema expert **Keith Jefferies** leads a discussion of the short films of the Michigan Theater's **Sundance Festival Film Series** • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

For more information call 327.4200 or visit our website at aadl.org

1 TUESDAY continued

of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a \$10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. 7-10 p.m., *Club Heidelberg* (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. Main. \$5. For information, call Larry Francis at 426-3451.

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Every Tuesday. Historical and traditional English dances. Today: Ray Bantle and Marty Wilson lead to music by David West and Donna Baird. Also this month: Shirley Harden and other callers TBA with music by West, Baird, Betsy Foote, and Anne Ormand (August 8), callers Greg Meisner and Carol Jacobs with music by West, Susie Lorand, and Tammy Corwin-Renner (August 15), and callers Arlene Kindel and Erin Larkspur with music by Childgrove (August 22). 7-9:30 p.m., *Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse*, 3350 Green Rd. \$6 (students, \$5; children, free). 665-7704.

Sweet Adelines County Connection. Every Tuesday. All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member barbershop harmony chorus. 7-10:30 p.m., *UAW Local 898 Hall*, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$20 monthly dues for those who join). 480-8843.

Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA. Every Tuesday. All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 7:30 p.m., *Stony Creek United Methodist Church*, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call Gerald Beamish at 427-9140.

Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club. Every Tuesday. Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 27th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), *U-M outdoor track*, S. State at Hoover. Free. 663-9740.

Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club. Every Tuesday & Saturday. All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. 7:30-9:30 p.m. (Tues.) & 1-3 p.m. (Sat.), location TBA. Free. 222-9803, 761-1115.

German Speakers' Round Table. Every Tuesday. All German speakers invited for conversation. 8 p.m., *Grizzly Peak Brewing Company*, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 665-2931.

The Tarbox Ramblers: The Ark. Boston band led by singer-guitarist Michael Tarbox that plays menacing, dark country blues. According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the band takes "an almost garage-rock approach to old country and blues songs, attacking them with an electrifying intensity." The band's latest CD, *A Fix Back East*, was produced by Memphis roots legend Jim Dickinson. 8 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Dungeons and Dragons Comedy Improv": Dreamland Theater. Every Tuesday. Improv comedy based on the popular role-playing game. Dungeonmaster Owen Wittekindt leads a group of local improv comedies in improvised scenes based on D&D themes. Audience members roll D&D dice and help determine whether the players live or are eaten. 8 p.m., *Dreamland Theater*, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. \$5. Reservations requested. 657-2337.

"Firefly Funnies": The Firefly Club. Showcase of top local stand-up comics, along with some improv comedy. 8 p.m.-midnight, *Firefly Club*, 207 S. Ashley. \$3. 665-9090.

"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar. Every Tuesday. All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. 10 p.m., *The Arena*, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222-9999.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Scoop" (Woody Allen, 2006). August 1-3. Romantic comedy about an American journalism student in London who, when she stumbles onto a big scoop, begins an affair with an aristocrat. Scarlett Johansson, Hugh Jackman. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **MTF Summer Classic Film Series. "Terminator 2"** (James Cameron, 1991). July 30 & August 1. A cyborg from the future saves humanity from destruction by a rival terminator. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Mich., times TBA.

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plays

Honus & Me Home run!

Hey, kids—if Superman's stunts had your heart in your throat, try watching an actor swinging a real baseball bat at a real pitch on the small Purple Rose stage. He's supposed to miss, but what if he hits the ball by mistake? Someone in the audience could be leaving the show feet first, and it could be you.

So opens *Honus & Me*, a play about a boy, a baseball card, and a time-traveling shortstop from the olden days, when players wore baggy pants. *Pittsburgh* was spelled without an H, and there was a lot more spitting. There's an old bat (heh heh) who says things like "There are two types of people: people who like baseball and people who will like baseball once they stop being idiots." Lessons about baseball history abound, for there really was a Honus Wagner, and the T-206 baseball card that bears his picture really is worth over a million dollars. In *Honus & Me* that baseball card turns up in the old bat's attic. Now why they don't all just start partying down right there is beyond me, but if they did, there would be no play. Instead, a "teachable moment" ensues, with various adults

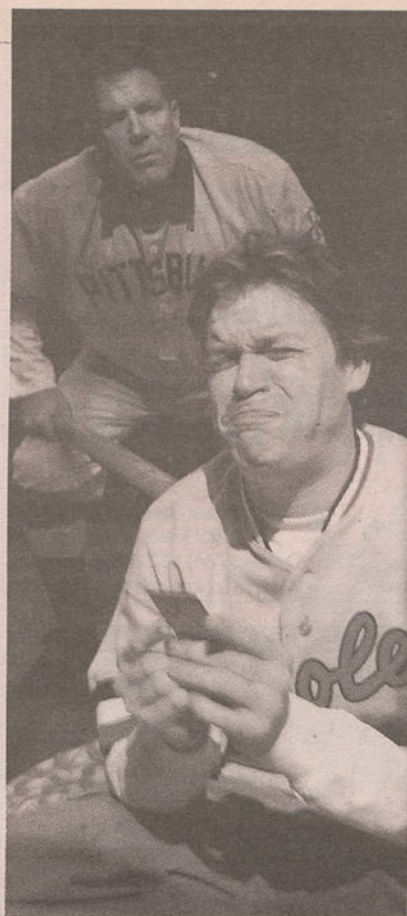
gasbagging about honor and doing the right thing, and you know that means no one is going to get the million dollars. Oh, just ignore this part. The rest of it is so much fun.

If it were a Disney movie, they'd screw it up by making it too smarmy, but *Honus & Me* has just the right amount of smarm. Phenomenal is the jiggy, rubber-faced performance of the fully adult Nicaolas J. Smith as a—what? eleven-year-old? Another great performance is turned in by Jim Porterfield as Honus himself, who comes back to life and then whisks young Joey back to the 1909 World Series. Porterfield, whose brutish masculinity can sometimes be overpowering when he plays opposite men and women his own age, is at his best here, portraying a hero who has to rein in his flash and dazzle to be one of the guys.

So how did he get a name like Honus? That's one thing the play doesn't explain, but Wikipedia does: it's short for Johannes. I went on-line as soon as I got home—I had to know whether a baseball card could really be worth a million bucks.

Honus & Me is at the Purple Rose every Wednesday through Sunday, through Saturday, August 26.

—Sally Mitani



2 WEDNESDAY

★**"Magic Carpet Mornings":** Ann Arbor District Library. Stories, songs, and/or other performances for kids age 2 & up (with caregiver). Today: harpist Donna Novack of the local harp-and-percussion duo Harpbeat presents an interactive musical program, "Animal Fun House." 10-10:30 a.m., Liberty Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Fifth Ave. Held in the AADL multipurpose room in case of rain. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Storytime with Mr. James":** Arborland Borders. Every Wednesday. Borders staffer "Mr. James" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: LeUyen Pham's *Big Sister*, Little Sister. Also this month: Chris Van Dusen's *If I Built a Car* and Phyllis Root's *Rattletrap* (August 9), Sandra Boynton's *Yay You* and Marianne Richmond's *Hooray for You* (August 16), Ian Falconer's *Olivia Forms a Band* and *Olivia Saves the Circus* (August 23), and Richard Scarry's *What Do People Do All Day?* (August 30). 11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449-9394.

★**Kids Programs:** Waterloo Recreation Area. Every Wednesday-Saturday through August 19. Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh presents a variety of nature programs and activities TBA for kids ages 7-12 accompanied by an adult. Today's topic: "Spring Pond Trail Hike." Also this month: "Ice Age Adventure" (August 3), "Insect Safari" (August 4), "Massasauga Rattlesnake" (August 5), "Michigan Mammals" (August 9), "Dinosaurs!" (August 10), "Trail Treasure Hunt" (August 11), "Endangered Species" (August 12), "Wow! Wetlands" (August 16), "Petoskey Stone Polishing" (August 17), "Kids Garden" (August 18), and "Wolves" (August 19). 11 a.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. \$6 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit (\$24 per year). 475-3170.

★**Chime Concert:** Kerrytown Shops. Every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday. All invited to play one of 40 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell tower's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Local chime master Heather O'Neal demonstrates. Noon, Kerrytown. Free. 662-5008.

Cooking Sessions: Kitchen Port. August 2, 9, & 16. With local chefs and cooks. Today: U-M chef Pat Wright whips up a "Party on the Grill!" Also this month: U-M chefs TBA demonstrate how to fix "Vine Veggies" (August 9) and "Basil and Tomato" (August 16). Noon-2 p.m. (Aug. 2) & noon-1 p.m. (Aug. 9 & 16), Kitchen Port, 283 S. Zeeb Rd. (just south of Jackson). \$10 (Aug. 2) & \$7 (Aug. 9 & 16). Preregistration recommended. 665-9188.

★**Scrabble:** The Firefly Club. Every Wednesday. All invited to join Firefly owner Susan Chastain and other local Scrabble enthusiasts to play this popular

word game. Bring a board and tiles, if you have them. 5-8 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Free. 665-9090.

★**"West Side Ride":** Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Wednesday. Slow/moderate-paced ride, 22-25 miles, and a slow-paced ride, 12-17 miles, to the Dexter Dairy Queen and back. Now in its 28th year, this ride is a favorite with newcomers and casual riders. 6 p.m. sharp, meet at Sweepster parking lot, 2800 N. Zeeb Rd. Free. 426-5116 (longer ride), 665-4552 & 761-2659 (shorter ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★**Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club.** Every Wednesday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). 6:15-7:45 p.m., 101 Science Hall, Concordia University, 4090 Geddes. Free to visitors. Dues: \$30 semiannually. 994-1479.

★**"Anime/Manga Character Cosplay Contest and Dance Dance Revolution Expo":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades 6-12 invited to dress up as their favorite anime or manga characters and compete with other so-called cosplayers before a panel of judges. Awards. Also, participants can try their skill in the computer-guided movement game Dance Dance Revolution. 6:30-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. Every Wednesday. Each 2-person team plays 2 or 3 hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. 7-11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) \$3 per person. 971-7530.

★**"France, Region by Region: Bordeaux":** Eve Restaurant. Village Corner wine expert Dick Scheer discusses the wines and foods typical of the Bordeaux region and how to pair them, and offers taste samples. 7 p.m., Eve, Kerrytown. \$40. Preregistration required. 222-0711.

★**Huron Valley Model Builders.** All invited to join a show-and-tell discussion. Bring your models built from scratch or from kits, including cars, tanks, boats, airplanes, spacecraft, figures, and more. 7 p.m., Lakeview Mobile Home Park clubhouse, 9910 Geraldine, Ypsilanti Twp. (take I-94 to Huron St. exit and head south, turn left on Textile, turn right on Bunton). Free. 481-1044.

★**Visitors Night:** Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. 7:30-10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426-5100.

★**Ann Arbor Smocking Group.** Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in the English art of embroidery known as smocking and in heir-

loom sewing. All invited. 7:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663-7867.

★**Meditation:** Karma Thegsum Choling. Every Wednesday. All invited to join 30 minutes of meditation in the Karma Kargyu tradition, followed by a discussion of dharma teachings. Instruction for beginning meditators available at 7 p.m. by appointment. 7:30-8:30 p.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761-7495.

★**Shamanic Journeys:** Magical Education Council. Every Wednesday. Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. 7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 699-8101.

★**Children's Storytime:** Barnes & Noble. Every Wednesday. Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids ages 5-8. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**Romance Readers Group:** Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion of *Memoirs of a Geisha*, Arthur Golden's absorbing novel about the life and circumstances of a Japanese geisha. Refreshments. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**International Youth Symphony Orchestra:** Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. Blue Lake founder Fritz Stansell directs an ensemble of young musicians in a program that includes Brahms's *Academic Festival Overture*, George Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, and Tchaikovsky's colorful *Symphony no. 4*. 7:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. (800) 221-3796.

★**"Introduction to Steiner's Thought":** Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. Every Wednesday. All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books. *Theosophy*. 8-9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 485-3764.

Paul Geremia: The Ark. A longtime local favorite, Geremia is one of the country's most renowned acoustic blues guitarists. Accompanying himself on piano and harmonica as well as guitar, he's also an engagingly rough-edged singer with a repertoire that includes traditional acoustic blues in a variety of regional rural and uptown idioms, as well as many originals in traditional styles. "Every song bears his unmistakable stamp: unerringly funky rhythm and guitar runs whose spectacular virtuosity is never overdone," says a *Boston Globe* reviewer. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"Honus & Me":** Purple Rose Theater Company. Every Wednesday-Sunday, June 22-August 26. See review, above. Guy Sanville directs Steven Dietz's adaptation of Dan Gutman's novel about a bright-eyed Little Leaguer who finds, while rummaging through a neighbor's attic, the world's most valuable baseball card—the T-206 Honus Wagner. It turns out

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Directed by **Guy Sanville**

Through **September 2, 2006**

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2 WEDNESDAY continued

the card is also magical, and the lucky boy is transported from contemporary Pittsburgh to the epochal 1909 World Series showdown between Honus Wagner's Pittsburgh Pirates and Ty Cobb's Detroit Tigers. Cast: Jim Porterfield, Wayne David Parker, Randall Godwin, Phil Powers, Barbara Coven, Dana Munshaw Brazil. 3 & 8 p.m., *Garage Theater*, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$25 (Wed. & Thurs.), \$30 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), & \$35 (Fri. & Sat. eves.) in advance and at the door. 433-ROSE.

Swing Dance: Swing Ann Arbor. Every Wednesday. High-energy dance party with merengue, bachata, and cha-cha records spun by a DJ. 9:30-11:30 p.m., *Michigan Union Pendleton Room* (Aug. 2, 9, 16, & 23) and *Ballroom* (Aug. 30). \$5 (students with ID, \$4). 945-8428.

FILMS

MTF. "Scoop" (Woody Allen, 2006). See 1 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA.

3 THURSDAY

★"Jackson County Brunch Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Thursday. Moderate-paced ride, 25-30 miles, along the less traveled roads of scenic Jackson County. 9 a.m., meet at Cavanaugh Lake Park, Cavanaugh Lake Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area. Free. 994-5908 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★"Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center." Every Thursday. A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with "Fitness Fun," a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. At 11 a.m. (1 p.m. on August 24 & 31), an educational or cultural presentation. Today: Marylen Oberman presents a "Memory Writing Workshop." Also this month: Esther Goldstein of Chabad House offers "A Mystical Look at the Spiritual and the Physical" (August 10), EMU political science professor Jeffrey Bernstein discusses "Will the Democrats Take Back Congress in 2006?" (August 17), and Anne Mininberg hosts a screening of the 2-part PBS series *Taking Charge of Your Health* (August 24 & 31). At 1 p.m. (11 a.m. on August 24 & 31) a Current Events discussion group and at 2:15 p.m. a meeting of the *Senior Literary Group*, a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschawsky. Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch (\$3 with reservation, \$4 without reservation and for nonseniors). 10 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

★"Play Day for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. Note: Play days are also offered at the Northeast (August 2, 10-11 a.m.), Malletts Creek (August 3, 6:30-7:30 p.m.), and Pittsfield (August 4, 10-11 a.m.) branches. 10-11 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301 (main library), 327-4200 (branches).

★"Children's Hour: Shaman Drum Bookshop." Every Thursday. Shaman Drum staff read picture books for kids ages 2-6. 11 a.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

★"Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble." Every Thursday. Shaman Drum staff read picture books for kids ages 2-5. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★"Factory Tours: Motawi Tileworks." Every Thursday. A Motawi artist leads a guided tour of every stage of tile-making. Attendees can watch artists at work. 11 a.m., Motawi, 170 Enterprise Dr. (north of Jackson Rd. between Staebler & Baker). Free. 213-0017.

★"Caterpillar Carnival": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner demonstrates and discusses our small, usually hairy friends. 11 a.m., County Farm Park (Platt Rd. entrance). Free, but registration required. 971-6337.

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Thursday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. Noon-3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$4 (nonresidents, \$5). 769-5911.

★"Community Tent": Ann Arbor Alive. Every Thursday. A variety of live entertainment and other activities at the new Westside Farmers' Market. Broadcast live at annarboralive.com. Today: jazz by the *American Arts Ensemble* and blues by *The Blues Owls*, a band led by singer-blues harpist Bob Bedard, a Dexter psychologist who also gives a talk today on his book *How to Be a Happier Person*. Now. 3-7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. Free. 761-6874.

★"Depot Town Cruise Night": Tucker's Cafe/Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Collection. Every

Thursday through mid-September. Dancing in the street to 50s music played by DJ Danny Wilson. Also, displays of several dozen classic, antique, and restored automobiles by various area car clubs and individuals. Raffle. 6-9 p.m., Cross St., Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Free. 482-5200.

★ASL Storytelling: Ann Arbor Deaf Club. All invited to tell or observe stories told in American Sign Language. 6-7:30 p.m., Washtenaw County Library Learning Resource Center, 4135 Washtenaw. Free. 971-6059.

★"Sounds and Sights on Thursday Nights": Chelsea Center for the Arts & Chelsea Retail Advisory Council. Every Thursday, June 29-September 7. Musical entertainment on four stages downtown, as well as activities for kids including jugglers, face painters, and caricature artists. Also, an art market and carriage rides. Tonight: Celtic music by the *Chelsea House Orchestra*, acoustic blues by *Blue Shift*, jazz by the *Sharyl Bureau Trio*, fiddle music by the *Martin-Burgess Duo*, blues by *Marrin-Metz-Whitman*, accordion tunes by *Songs You Remember*, folk-style originals by singer-songwriter *Keith Parmentier*, and show tunes by vocalist *Jessica Oberholtzer*. Also, juggler *Josh Casey*, kids entertainment by the *Balloon Emporium*, and body painting by *Express Yourself Body Art*. 6-8 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free (fee for carriage ride). 475-1145.

★"Chelsea Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Thursday. Slow/moderate-paced ride, 20-30 miles, to either Dexter or the Waterloo Recreation Area. 6 p.m., meet at the north side of Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1178 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 851-8323 & (517) 285-6830 (today's ride), 994-0044 (general information).

★"Cross Town Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Thursday. Fast/moderate-paced ride, 15-35 miles, on dirt roads toward Chelsea and back. Cyclocross, mountain, or wide-tire touring bike recommended. 6:30 p.m., meet at 5960 Rollingwood Dr. (from Zeeb Rd. south of Jackson, west on Park to Cedar Ridge to Rollingwood). Free. (734) 395-0435 (today's ride), 994-0044 (general information).

★"Thursday Evening Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Thursday. Fast/moderate-paced 25-mile ride around northeast Ann Arbor that includes some good chances to improve your climbing skills. 6:30 p.m., meet at the Fuller Pool parking lot, Fuller Rd. Free. 996-9122 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★"Women Running Fit": Two Dogs Running. Every Thursday. All women invited to run a different course, 2-6 miles, each week. Directed by a certified running coach. Maps provided. Runners who accumulate 50 miles receive a T-shirt from Running Fit. Men also invited to run. 6:30 p.m., Running Fit, 123 E. Liberty. Free. 369-2492, 569-5016.

★"Frank Lloyd Wright Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Thursday. Slow-paced 15-mile ride on mountain or wide-tired road bikes over the lightly traveled, hard dirt roads behind Domino's Farms. 7 p.m., meet at Domino's Farms parking lot, Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. at Earhart Rd. (north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. 995-5017 & 663-5060 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★"Gregory Barsamian: Time and Transformation": U-M Museum of Art. August 3, 17, & 31. Docent-led tours of this exhibit of this New York-based sculptor's 3-dimensional sculptures. Note temporary new location. 7 p.m., UMMA Offsite, 1301 South University at Forest. Free. 763-UMMA.

ACBL Bridge: Women's City Club. Every Thursday. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. 7 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$5. 761-6691.

★Yoga Workout: Ann Arbor District Library. Local yoga teacher Victoria Forman-Duranona leads an introduction to various yoga moves and poses. Wear comfortable clothing, and don't eat a big meal immediately beforehand. Note: This program is also offered at the Pittsfield Branch, August 10 & 17, 8 p.m. 7-8 p.m., AADL story corner, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Every Thursday. Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. 7:30-9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver (off Nixon). \$4. 769-4324, 426-0241.

★Summer Gazebo Concerts: Manchester Recreation Task Force. Area musicians perform the last of a series of outdoor concerts in Manchester's downtown gazebo. Bring picnics, chairs, and blankets. Tonight: the popular *Saline Big Band*. 7:30 p.m., across from St. Mary's Church, 210 W. Main, Manchester. Free; donations appreciated. 936-2462.

Gaelic Storm: The Ark. Highly regarded Celtic fusion jam band from Santa Monica. Members are singer-accordionist Patrick Murphy, bodhran player Steve Wehmeyer, guitarist and mandolinist Steve

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Twigger, fiddler Samantha Hunt, and djembe player Shep Lonsdale. The band's 2004 CD *How Are We Getting Home?* reached #3 on the Billboard World Music chart, and everyone in the audience tonight receives a copy of the band's brand-new CD, *Bring Yer Wellies*. A benefit for Hospice of Michigan. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$35 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**Renaissance Dances: Bedlam.** Every Thursday. Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try English country dances, 15th- and 16th-century Italian dances, bransles, pavaues, almans, and more. Instruction provided. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. 8-11 p.m., Michigan League room D. Free. 971-1809.

★**"The Playboy of the Western World": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater.** July 27-30 & August 3-6. Wendy Wright directs local actors in John Millington Synge's 1907 play, a darkly comic poetic drama about a small community dazzled by the self-absorbed eloquence of a stranger who boasts of having killed his father. At its Dublin opening, the play caused civil uproar as Catholics protested the portrayal of rural Catholic morality. 8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$18 (students & seniors, \$15) in advance and at the door. 214-6600.

★**"I Am My Own Wife": Performance Network Professional Season.** Every Thursday through Sunday, July 20-August 27. Gillian Eaton directs local theater favorite *Malcolm Tulip* in Doug Wright's 2004 Pulitzer Prize-winning one-man play, an adaptation of the autobiography of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, an indomitable, enigmatic German transvestite who survived both the Nazi and the Communist regimes in East Berlin while amassing a world-class collection of vintage furnishings. 8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Preview tickets: \$20 (July 21-23 & 27) and \$29 (July 22). July 28 opening night tickets: \$36 includes reception. After July 28: \$24.50 (Thurs. & Sun.), \$29.50 (Fri.), and \$34.50 (Sat.). Discounts available for seniors & (during previews) adults under age 30. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. Half-price student rush tickets available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations, call 663-0681; to charge by phone, call 663-0696.

★**"Honus & Me": Purple Rose Theater Company.** See 2 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

★**"The Catfight": Improv Inferno.** Every Thursday. Two improv groups TBA present a half hour of their best comedy, and the audience chooses the "Baddest Cat in the Fight." Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. \$5. 214-7080.

★**"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** August 3, 10, & 24. Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

★**"High Octane": Improv Inferno.** Every Thursday. Performance by a past winner TBA of the club's weekly "Catfight" competition (see 8 p.m. listing above). Alcohol is served. 10 p.m., Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. \$5. 214-7080.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Sundance Series. "Blood Simple" (Joel Coen, 1984). August 3 & 6. See review, p. 62. The Coen brothers' homage to film noir, about a cuckolded husband who hires a questionable character to off his unfaithful wife. John Getz, Frances McDormand, M. Emmet Walsh. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7:15 p.m. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. MTF. "Scoop" (Woody Allen, 2006). See 1 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA.

4 FRIDAY

★**"Storytime with Mr. James": Arborland Borders.** Every Friday. Borders staffer "Mr. James" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: Lauren Thompson's *Little Quack's New Friend* and Karma Wilson's *Bear's New Friend*. Also this month: Giles Andreae's *Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs* and Melinda Long's *How I Became a Pirate* (August 11), Dan Clark's *Puppies for Sale* and Sean Bryan's *A Girl and Her Gator* (August 18), and Kelly DiPucchio's *Bed Hogs* and Lauren Child's *I Am Not Sleepy and I Will Not Go to Bed* (August 25). 11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449-9394.

★**"Music in the Park": Herb David Guitar Studio.** See 1 Tuesday. Today: bands from the local Neutral Zone teen center. Noon-2 p.m.

★**Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Friday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play a variety of styles of bingo. 1-3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

Tours: Waterloo Area Farm Museum. Every Friday, Saturday, & Sunday. Tours of this pioneer homestead built by a German immigrant family, including an 1844 cabin and a big farmhouse (don't miss the wooden wheelchair in the attic and the grim story behind it). Also, outbuildings that include a log cabin, bakery, ice house, and more. 1-5 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area. (Take I-94 west to exit 153 and follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village.) \$3 (seniors age 62 & older; \$2.50; youths ages 5-17, \$1). (517) 596-2254.

★**"Dance Casserole": Ann Arbor District Library.** Megan Rose Smith leads kids ages 4-7 in a dynamic mix of dancing and creative play that includes dance songs, stretches, lead-and-follow games, and dancing with ballet, modern, yoga, African, jazz, and hip-hop movements. 2-2:45 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

★**Pickup Games: Ann Arbor Ultimate.** Every Friday-Sunday. All invited to play this team game played with a flying disc. 6 p.m. (Fri.), Slauson Middle School; 11 a.m. (Sat.), Fuller Field; & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Palmer Field. Free. info@a2ultimate.org.

★**"TGIF Democratic Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Friday. Moderate-paced 20-mile ride to the Dexter Dairy Queen for a snack. 6 p.m., Abbot School, 2670 Sequoia Pkwy. (off Maple 1 block south of Miller). Free. 913-9851.

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. 7-9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. \$5 requested donation. 996-1332.

★**"Jammin' Michigan Avenue."** Every Friday. Several Ypsilanti businesses have gotten together to host a weekly outdoor musical stage. Tonight's performers: The Terraplanes, a local blues band, and City Goat, a local pop-folk jam band. 7-10 p.m., Washington St. at Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Free. 945-7442.

★**"Festive Friday": Main Street Area Association.** Local entertainers stroll the sidewalks, including juggler Tim Salisbury, Elvis tribute artist Chris Solano, the Joe Summers Gypsy Jazz Trio, and the Swankorama Trio. Many stores are open late. 7-9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, & Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112.

Dashboard Confessional: Live Nation. Guitar-fueled emo-oriented alternative rock quartet from Florida known for its mix of electric and acoustic instruments, playfully literate lyrics, and intimate live shows, which often feature lots of sing-alongs. Its music has been featured on the *Shrek 2* and *Spider-Man 2* soundtracks. Opening acts are Say Anything, an L.A. indie punk quartet led by singer-songwriter Max Bemis, and Ben Lee, an acclaimed Australian pop-rock singer-songwriter. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$30 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** August 4 & 18. All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's lecture cycle *A Road to Self-Knowledge*. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. 8-9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway East, 1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes. Free. 662-6398.

★**"Riverfolk Unplugged."** A festive preview party for the Riverfolk Festival (see 5 Saturday) features a gourmet dinner from The Moveable Feast catering, dancing, and performances by Adrienne Young & Little Sadie, Steppin' in It, Rachael Davis, and other festival musicians TBA. The preview party always sells out, so get tickets quick. 8-11 p.m., Carr Park, Manchester. \$35 includes dinner. Reservations required. 323-1761.

Julia Broxholm, Wendy Bloom, & Kathryn Goodson: Kerrytown Concert House Classical Series. Veteran local sopranos Broxholm and Bloom, accompanied by pianist Goodson, perform duets and solos of contemporary American art songs. The program includes works by Ricky Ian Gordon, Lee Hoiby's dramatic "Bermudas," duets from Ned Rorem's song cycle *Evidence of Things Not Seen*, and a duet from Maltby and Shire's revue of songs about contemporary American life, *Closer than Ever*. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10, \$15, & \$25 (student, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

Slaid Cleaves: The Ark. Highly regarded New Hampshire-bred, Austin-based country-rock singer-songwriter known for his soulful, yearning vocals and his songs about the often tragic struggles of common people. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

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Albert Einstein

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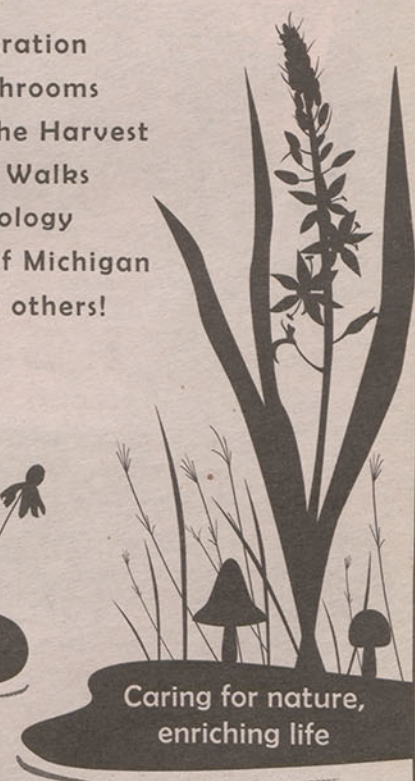
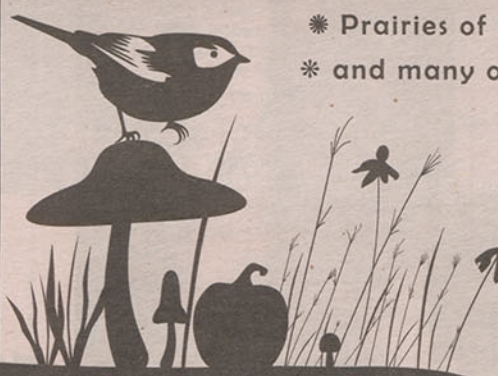
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4 FRIDAY continued

"The Playboy of the Western World": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"I Am My Own Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Honus & Me": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Improv and Sketch Comedy": Improv Inferno. Every Friday & Saturday. Local improv comics take an audience suggestion and create an improvised spoof of a documentary film. 8 p.m., Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. \$10. 214-7080.

3rd Annual Michigan Comedy Competition: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. The finals of this annual competition features winners of preliminary rounds held earlier this week at Wiseguys Comedy Club in Novi and the Comedy Cattle in Royal Oak. There are 4 finalists in each of 2 tiers, one for open mike performers and MCs and one for middle acts and headliners. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$10 in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society. All invited to peer through the telescope on the Angell Hall roof for celestial visions. Club members are on hand to answer questions. 9-11 p.m., 5th-floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left). Free. 936-3626.

"Friday Swing Night": Swing Ann Arbor. Every Friday. Swing dancing to recorded music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. 9 p.m.-midnight, dance Revolution, 603 E. William. \$5. 434-7093.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. Every Friday & Saturday. A competition among 6 improv comics playing silly improv games, a la Whose Line Is It Anyway? Each comic competes on behalf of 6 audience members for such fabulous prizes as a mealtime supply of Rice-a-Roni. Ages 18 & older admitted. Alcohol is served. 10 p.m., Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. Tickets \$10 in advance and at the door. 214-7080.

"The X Show": Improv Inferno. Every Friday & Saturday. An hour of uncensored improv. Alcohol is served. Midnight, Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. Tickets \$5 in advance and at the door. 214-7080.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. U-M Center for Japanese Studies. "Teens, Angst, and Rock 'n' Roll: Seishun Eiga, Then and Now." August 4, 11, & 18. This summer's film series explores *seishun eiga*, or films for the youth market. Today: *All about Lily Chou Chou* (Shunji Iwai, 2001), a coming-of-age tale about a boy who retreats from the cruelty of junior high school and becomes immersed in a pop diva's Internet site. A *Village Voice* critic says the film "may be the zeitgeist's *Quadrophenia*." Lorch Hall auditorium (Tappan at Monroe), 7 p.m.

5 SATURDAY

★"Sunrise Saturday Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Saturday. Very slow-paced 22-mile ride to Dexter for breakfast. Begins at sunrise. 6:31 a.m. (Aug. 5), 6:38 a.m. (Aug. 12), 6:45 a.m. (Aug. 19), 6:53 (Aug. 26), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 665-6327, 913-9851.

★"Dexter Breakfast Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Saturday. Slow-paced (22 miles) and moderate/fast-paced (30 to 80 miles) round-trip rides to the Dexter Bakery. A very popular ride. Also, after the bakery stop, a fast/moderate-paced swim extension ride (40 to 60 miles) continues to Silver Lake for a swim. Note: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. 8 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St., or at Barton Park, Huron River Dr. Free. For information about weekly breakfast rides, call 665-8311 (Aug. 5), 663-5060 (Aug. 12), 996-9461 (Aug. 19), & 483-0448 (Aug. 26). For general information, call 913-9851.

"Running Fit 501": Two Dogs Running. Every Saturday. Runners of all abilities invited to run a different course, of varying distances, each week. Directed by a certified running coach. Maps provided. 8 a.m., Running Fit, 123 E. Liberty. \$5. 569-5016.

★Sailing Sessions: U-M Sailing Club. Every Saturday. All sailors from first-timers to Fridtjof Nansens invited to try 30 minutes of sailing with a club instructor. Drop-ins welcome; no U-M affiliation required. 9 a.m.-noon, 8010 Strawberry Lake Rd. (left from Mast off North Territorial), Dexter. First 2 visits free. 426-4299.

"8th Annual Thunder over Michigan": Yankee Air Museum. August 5 & 6. One of the nation's largest "warbird" events, this giant show of WW II-era and later fighter aircraft includes everything

Summer Tours

Daily Schedule:

Tuesday - Friday
@ 2:00 p.m.

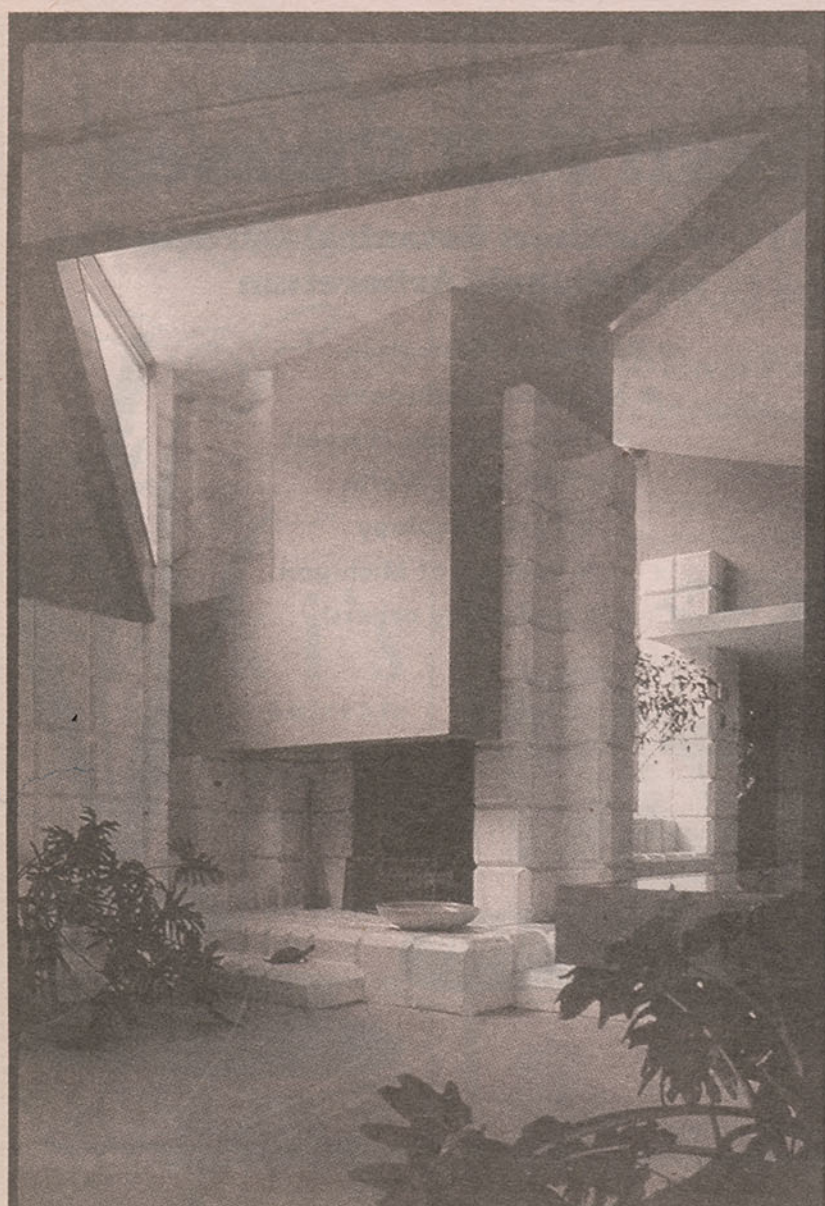
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from North America's only flying Lancaster Bomber to immense B-17 Flying Fortresses, including the Air Museum's own gleaming Yankee Lady. This year, the show includes the nation's largest reenactment of WW II heavy armored vehicle battle (10 a.m.) and an air show (noon). Flight demos. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Willow Run Airport (off I-94), Ypsilanti. Tickets \$12 (kids ages 7-15, \$8) in advance; \$15 (kids ages 7-15, \$10) at the door. Kids age 6 & younger free. 483-4030.

Tour: Zingerman's Bakehouse. Every Saturday. A chance to view artisanal bread and pastry baking and get a free treat. Kids under age 6 not admitted. 10 a.m., Zingerman's Bakehouse, 3711 Plaza Dr. \$5 (kids ages 6-12, free). Reservations required. 761-7255.

***Walk: Grex.** Every Saturday (different locations). All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk, either along trails in Bird Hills Park (August 5) or from Gallup Park through Nichols Arboretum (August 12, 19, & 26). 10 a.m., meet at the Newport Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Park (Aug. 5) and in Gallup Park parking lot (Aug. 12, 19, & 26), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 741-9351.

***"Volunteer Stewardship Workday": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** August 5, 19, & 26 (different locations). All invited to help city parks natural area preservation staff maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Wear pants and closed-toe shoes. Followed by short nature walks. Today: help make a new trail at the Riverwood Nature Area. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., meet near the park sign on Riverwood Dr. west off Newport Rd. Free. 996-3266.

"Sciencepalooza": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. August 5 & 6. This popular monthly exhibit in the concourse area features an array of attended hands-on activity tables. This month's topic: "The Science of Superheroes." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Aug. 5) & noon-5 p.m. (Aug. 6), Hands-On Museum, 219 E. Huron. \$7.50 (students & seniors, \$6) regular museum admission. 995-5439.

***Lughnasadh Festival: Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to join local pagans for a festival honoring the Celtic sun god Lugh. Activities include henna tattooing, games, presentations, workshops, a ritual, and a potluck dinner and dessert contest (bring a dish). Preceded by an overnight firewatch that begins at 8 p.m. on August 4. 10 a.m.-midnight, Botsford Recreation Preserve, 3015 Miller Rd. Free. 262-1052.

***29th Annual Dixboro Fair: Dixboro United Methodist Church.** More than 4,000 visitors are expected at this community fair, with the popular petting zoo, silent auction, carnival games, a moonwalk, and live music. Also, the annual "Artisans on the Green," a juried arts and crafts show of award-winning Michigan artisans, with paintings, jewelry, woodworking, dolls, ceramics, baskets, clothing, garden art, quilting, glass, textiles, florals, and much more. Lots of goodies to eat, including sausages and hot dogs, sweet corn, homemade pies and cakes, ice cream, and more. Entertainment includes Christian rock by Special Delivery, bluegrass by the Traver Creek Ramblers, and Christian rock by Joyful Noise. Proceeds benefit the Humane Society. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Dixboro Village Green, Plymouth Rd. at Cherry Hill Rd. (2 miles east of US-23). Free admission. 665-5632.

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. Every Saturday. All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. 11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.). Dexter. \$4 per player; free for spectators. (Park entry fee: \$4 per vehicle.) 434-1615.

5th Annual Riverfolk Music and Arts Festival. A daylong traditional-music blowout on 3 stages. Also, an art fair with more than 30 local artists and a large kids crafts area, plus a boisterous kids parade at 5:30 p.m. Main Stage: Sunkwa (noon-1 p.m.) is an Ypsilanti-based ensemble that performs high-energy, complex Ghanaian drum and dance, with elements of world music. Jo Serrapere & the Willie Dunns (1-2 p.m.) is a blues-flavored folk-rock band led by Serrapere, a highly regarded local singer-songwriter. Annie Capps (2-3 p.m.), a local singer-songwriter who is accompanied by her husband Rod Capps, writes jazz-tinged folk-rock songs with a strong personal flavor. The Raisin Pickers (3-4 p.m.) is a veteran Manchester-based ensemble that plays old-time jug band dance music, western swing, and newgrass. U-M music graduate and former Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic member Jeremy Kittel (4-5 p.m.) is a National Scottish Fiddle champion whose repertoire includes traditional fiddle tunes and originals blending elements of classical, jazz, bluegrass, and other fiddle traditions. Rachael Davis (6-7 p.m.) is a gifted young Cadillac, Michigan, singer-songwriter whose

influences range from Ella Fitzgerald to Patty Griffin. Seth Bernard and Daisy May (7-8 p.m.) is a singer-songwriter duo from mid-Michigan that balances Bernard's clever, funny, candidly insightful folk-, rock-, and jazz-based songs with May's richly emotional country-flavored songs. Veteran local singer-songwriter Dick Siegel (8-9 p.m.) is an immensely gifted and versatile composer whose songs offer all sorts of immediate musical and lyrical pleasures, both serious and comic, as well as a resonant staying power. Adrienne Young and Little Sadie (9-10 p.m.) is pop-savvy roots-music by a quintet led by Young, an up-and-coming young Florida singer-songwriter whose knack for writing songs that seem at once newly minted and weathered has provoked comparisons to Gillian Welch. Bill Kirchen (10-11 p.m.), an Ann Arbor native now based in Washington, D.C., who first gained fame as the guitarist in Commander Cody's Lost Planet Airmen, plays a rowdy mix of rockabilly, honky-tonk, blues, swing, and truck-driving songs that critics have dubbed "dieselbilly." Steppin' in It (11 p.m.-midnight) is an acoustic string quartet from Lansing that plays everything from bluegrass, country-folk, and country blues to Cajun, western swing, and calypso.

New Stage: Annie Capps (12:20-1:20 p.m.), twang-filled acoustic country and American roots music by the Hummingbirds (1:20-2:20 p.m.), richly imaginative country-folk originals by Whit Hill and the Postcards (2:20-3:20 p.m.), and Jo Serrapere (3:20-4:20 p.m.).

Pavilion Stage: the Hummingbirds (11:40 a.m.-12:40 p.m.), Seth Bernard and Daisy May and Rachael Davis (12:40-1:40 p.m.), a clogging workshop (1:40-2:40 p.m.), swing dancing with Steppin' in It (2:40-3:40 p.m.), and a guitar workshop with Bill Kirchen (3:40 p.m.). 11 a.m.-midnight, Carr Park, Manchester. Tickets \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door (kids age 10 & under, free). (877) 748-3655.

***Grandma Janet Mary: Barnes & Noble.** This award-winning children's fiction writer from St. John's, Michigan, reads some of her stories exploring the bonds between children and their grandparents. Also, a craft activity. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 973-0846.

***"Pinhole Photography": Ann Arbor District Library.** Ypsilanti photographer Matt Callow shows how to make your own camera using an oatmeal box, a pop can, or even a room. Noon-3 p.m., Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

***"Music in the Park": Herb David Guitar Studio.** See 1 Tuesday. Today: Not Another Hero, a Lansing pop-rock trio. Noon-2 p.m.

***Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum.** Every Saturday & Sunday. 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. 2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764-0478.

Kids Drum Circle: Oz's Music. All kids invited to join a drumming session hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. 3-4 p.m., Oz's Music, 1920 Packard. \$10. 662-8283.

***Picnic Concert: WCBN-FM.** A minifestival of local music. Headliner is The Flying Luttenbachers, a Chicago noise band on the Bulb label that plays demented Bohemian rhapsodies. With Manta, a Portland, Oregon, folk-rock band led by singer-songwriter Marianna Richey, Dumb and Ugly Club, the local folk-style acoustic postpunk duo of U-M students Gina Pensiero and Michael Beauchamp. Bring your own picnic. 3-6 p.m., West Park band shell. Free. 763-3500.

***Children's Movie: Arborland Borders.** Every Saturday. Kids (accompanied by a parent) invited to bring teddy bears and watch a family film TBA. Popcorn. 6 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6948.

"Satisfaction Guaranteed," "Reality Incorporated," and "Dirt": Dreamland Theater. August 5, 12, & 19. Dreamland Theater puppeteer Naia Venturi directs 3 dark marionette shows by San Francisco writer Jess Rowland. Satisfaction Guaranteed examines the life of a man on the verge of suicide whose last hope for satisfaction lies in a bag of potato chips. Reality Incorporated offers a glimpse into the customer service department of the company that defines reality as we know it. Dirt outlines the touching story of the fetching Marianne, the vile Ezechial Cramrod the Third, and a lonely piece of dirt. Mature audiences. 7 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. \$7. 657-2337.

The Raconteurs: Live Nation. Rock 'n' roll quartet led by Detroit singer-songwriters Jack White (of White Stripes fame) and Brendan Benson. Formed in 2005, the band has a hit single, "Steady As She Goes," and a best-selling CD, Broken Boy Soldiers. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$35 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other

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Riverfolk
Music & Arts Festival

Saturday - August 5, 2006
11am - Midnight Carr Park - Manchester, MI

Featuring: Bill Kirchen, Adrienne Young & Little Sadie, Steppin' In It, Rachael Davis, Dick Siegel, Jeremy Kittel, Seth Bernard & Daisy May & more...

Tickets & Info = riverfolkfestival.org

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3:00-4:00 PM - Strolling Magician/Balloon Animals
Monday 3:00-4:00 PM - Zeemo The Magnificent
4:00-5:00 PM - Strolling Magician/Balloon Animals

BAZAAR TENT
Plant Booth, Country Kitchen
Cake Walk, Crafts, White Elephant
Pick-A-Doll/Bear

ENTERTAINMENT TENT
Music, Dance, Beer, Wine & Cold Drinks

SATURDAY
12:00-1:30 PM - Chelsea House Orchestra
3:30-6:00 PM - Swing Instructions/Music
8:00 PM - 12:00 AM - Big Pinky Band

SUNDAY
12:00-3:00 PM - Kielbasa Kings-Polka
3:00-3:30 PM - Cake Contest
3:30-6:00 PM - Horse Cave Trio
8:00 PM-12:00 AM - Remedy-Rock

MONDAY
12:00-3:00 PM - Jerry Sprague-Singer/Guitar Player
3:00-5:00 PM - Whitmore Lake Idol
5:00-6:00 PM - Raffle Winners

Enjoy favorites from our concession stand throughout the weekend

SATURDAY-PIG ROAST 4:00-7:00 PM-concession stand
SUNDAY-BBQ CHICKEN DINNER NOON-til sold out-concession stand

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4th Prize 14K White & Yellow Gold Earrings
donated by Urban Jewelers
5th Prize 2 Month Lessons & Free Uniforms
donated by The Dexter Karate Academy
6th Prize 27" TV donated by Val's Service Station
7th Prize One Night Poolside Room
donated by Weber's Inn
8th Prize \$150 Cash Prize donated by
Northern Pizza Equipment
9th Prize \$150 Gift Certificate donated by
Stadium Hardware
10th Prize Hand Drawn Portrait
donated by Dexter Artist John Conklin
11th Prize 1 Day Pontoon Boat Rental
donated by Mac's Marina & Dee's Place
12th Prize Hand Made Cherry Bowl
donated by Richard Tuzinsky
13th Prize Hand Painted Vegetable Basket
donated by John St. Pierre
14th Prize Beautiful Lamp
donated by Joslin Electric
Winners need not be present



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5 SATURDAY continued

Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

1st Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Dave Sebolt calls contras to music by Tom Allen & Friends. No partner needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat-soled shoes. 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$9; AACTMAD members, \$8; students, \$5. 769-1052.

★Liberation Summer Project: Critical Moment. Members of this activist group from the black neighborhood of East Nashville, Tennessee, present a mix of humor, music, and satire exploring local struggles for racial justice. Also, Liberation Summer Project member Gregory King introduces and screens 2 documentary films, his own *Tales from the Street: Homeless People Speak about Their Lives and the Police* and *I Won't Drown on That Levee and You Ain't Gonna Break My Back*, a film about the condition of prisoners in post-Katrina New Orleans made by Critical Resistance, an organization working against the prison-industrial complex. Q&A. 8 p.m., Heiwa Cooperative, 530 Miller at Fountain. Free; donations accepted. 669-8028.

Livingston Taylor: The Ark. Like his more famous brother James, Livingston Taylor first emerged as part of the singer-songwriter boom of the late 60s and early 70s. From his first hits ("Carolina Day" and "In My Reply"), his music has remained consistently sweet-tempered, emotionally direct and buoyant, occasionally very humorous, and laid back in a way that evokes a thoughtful country squire. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"The Playboy of the Western World": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"I Am My Own Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Honus & Me": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Keith Ruff: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. This up-and-coming Detroit-area African American comic is known for his crisp, clever, slightly twisted topical commentary and for his high-spirited, often whimsical performing style. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$8 reserved seating in advance, \$10 general admission at the door. 996-9080.

"Improv and Sketch Comedy": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

★"Full Moon Campfire": Superior Land Conservancy/Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy. All invited to enjoy a family-oriented campfire in one of the largest Conservancy-owned nature preserves in southeast Michigan. Bring campfire refreshments and lawn chairs; firewood appreciated. 9 p.m. (gates open about 5:30 p.m.), LeFurge Woods, Prospect Rd. (1/2 mile north of Geddes), Superior Twp. Free. 482-7414.

"Full Moon Paddle": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to paddle around Argo Pond in the moonlight to observe birds and other animals as they prepare for their nocturnal lives. Bring a flashlight. Canoes, kayaks, and equipment provided. 9-11 p.m., Argo Canoe Livery, 1055 Longshore Dr. (north off Moore from Broadway at Maiden Lane). \$16 (non-residents, \$20), 668-7411.

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$8 (PWP members, \$6). 973-1933.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. 10 p.m.

"The X Show": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. Midnight.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

6 SUNDAY

★Falun Gong. Every Sunday. Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. 8:30-10:30 a.m., Michigan League Koessler Room. Free. 834-4978.

"5th Annual Rutka 5K": Ann Arbor Track Club. 5 km run and walk in Gallup Park. Also, a 100-yard kids dash and a free 200-yard "Jason's run/walk" for people with cerebral palsy. Awards to top 3 male and female overall winners and to winners in various 5-



Tinsley Ellis leads his electric blues band at the Ark Aug. 10.

year age divisions. Participants in the Jason's run/walk receive ceramic plaques. Raffle prizes. Proceeds benefit United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Detroit. 9 a.m., Gallup Park, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Parking in the Huron High School parking lot. Run & walk: \$20 in advance at aatrackclub.org/rutka, \$25 day of race. Kids run: \$5 in advance and day of run. 369-2492.

***Wampers Lake Swim Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Fast/moderate-paced 80-mile ride to Wampers Lake for a swim and lunch. Also, a slow-paced 40-mile ride to the same destination leaves at 9 a.m. from the municipal parking lot on Ockrow (off Adrian south of Main St.) in Manchester. 9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 426-4989 (80-mile ride), 216-4158 (40-mile ride), 913-9851 (general information).

***Meditation: Karma Thegsum Choling.** Every Sunday. All invited to sitting (9:30 a.m.) and chanting (10 a.m.) meditation. 9:30 a.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761-7495, 678-7549.

***Silent Vipassana Meditation: Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry.** Every Sunday. Meditators of all levels invited for an hour of silent meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Followed by a 30-minute dharma discussion. 10-11:30 a.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477-5848.

***Introductory Dharma Talk: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** Every Sunday. Talks by Gehlek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. Today's topic: "Plumbing the Depths." Also this month: "Promise of Change" (August 13), "The Balancing Point" (August 20), and "Relating to the Spiritual Teacher" (August 27). 10-11 a.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. Free, but donations accepted. 994-3387.

21st Annual Exotic Bird Exhibition: Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club. Display of live exotic birds from around the world, with sales of birds and bird-related items. Veterinarians and other experts are on hand to answer questions. Also, a talk on "Birdie Basics" by Animal Kingdom Veterinary Hospital veterinarian Brigitte Dagenais. Informational displays by representatives from various national avian organizations. Raffles. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Admission \$3 (children under age 12, free). 662-4582.

Artisan Market. Every Sunday. Show and sale of fine crafts, jewelry, soaps, furniture, fiber arts, and gift items. Also, live entertainment TBA. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Farmers' Market. Free admission. 665-2009.

***Open House: Nature's Expressions.** Show and sale of crystalline mineral specimens, fossils, shells, mounted butterflies and insects, and more. Includes a complete fossil skeleton of a 9-foot, 100,000-year-old cave bear. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. north of Huron River Dr.). Free. 994-3048.

***First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** Every Sunday except August 27. A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: First Singles members read their favorite poems. Also this month: First Sin-

gles member Polly Pan leads a discussion of an audiotaped lecture on "Doubting Thomas" from the Teaching Company's series *Great Figures in the New Testament* (August 13), and First Presbyterian member Dee Valanis leads a discussion of books (other than the Bible) that have had the most influence on participants' lives (August 20). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.) 11 a.m., *First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room*, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466, ext. 43.

***Tour: Zingerman's Creamery.** Every Sunday. Zingerman's cheesemaker John Loomis leads a tour of the new facility where Zingerman's cheeses are made. Noon-2 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. Free. 929-0500.

"HerbFest": Herb Study Group. This herb festival is highlighted by a talk by U-M anthropology professor emeritus Daniel Moerman on "Summertime Medicinal Herbs." Afterwards, Moerman leads a walk around Matthaei's grounds to look for and discuss herbs used by Native Americans. Those who don't want to walk can participate in a group discussion about a local medicinal herb garden. Free samples of herb snacks and both

lavender and sumac lemonade. Noon-4 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Admission \$15 (Matthaei members, \$10). Preregistration requested. 998-7061.

Contact Improv. August 6 & 20. All invited to try this interactive, freeform dance style that involves contact with one or more partners. It can involve improvisational lifts and other experiments with gravity, and there's lots of close physical contact. You might find yourself upside down, so dress appropriately for easy movement. No partner required. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Jazzercise Dance Studio, 1945 South Industrial. \$5-\$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604-4416.

***Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Sunday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. 12:30-3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

"Herb Harvesting": Kitchen Port. Local herbalists Merrill Crockett and Rita Hermann demonstrate how to harvest and freeze herbs. 1 p.m., Kitchen Port, 283 S. Zeeb Rd. (just south of Jackson). \$7. Preregistration recommended. 665-9188.

***"Ferns of a Summer Swamp": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to examine luxuriant ferns. 2-4 p.m., Brauer Preserve, Parker Rd. just south of Waters Rd., Freedom Twp. Free. 971-6337.

***"Kerry Tales: Dog Days with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun, with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., Hollander's (Kerrytown), 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. 769-3115.

***Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. 2-3 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1922 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662-8283.

***"Gregory Barsamian: Time and Transformation": U-M Museum of Art.** August 6 & 20. Documented tours of this exhibit of the New York-based sculptor's 3-dimensional sculptures. Note temporary new location. 2 p.m., UMMA Offsite, 1301 South University at Forest. Free. 763-UMMA.

"The Playboy of the Western World": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"I Am My Own Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Honus & Me": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

***Ann Arbor-Motown Hash House Harriers.** Every Sunday & occasional Saturdays. The local chapter of an unorthodox running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's task is to follow a trail designed to be confusing. The usual result is that the lead (i.e., fastest) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer & pop hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant. 3 p.m., location TBA. Free. Weekly locations available at a2h3.org.

***"Lana Wilson": Yourist Pottery.** Screening of a video about this potter known for soft slab techniques that result in organic-looking, sculptural vessels with

richly textured surfaces. 4 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1133 Broadway. Free. 662-4914.

Anton Shelepov and Michele Cooker: Kerrytown Concert House "Classical Series." Shelepov, an award-winning young Russian violinist who performs with the Kremlin Chamber Orchestra, performs works by Prokofiev and Brahms. Accompanist is local pianist Cooker. 4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10, \$15, & \$25 (student, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

***Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** Every Sunday. All invited to try a session of this boisterous, jingly, ancient English ceremonial dance said to have originated a millennium ago as a pantomime of war between Moors and Crusaders. Wear athletic shoes. 6-8 p.m., minipark between Rackham and Frieze Bldgs. Free. 747-8138.

Frigg: The Ark. Traditional Nordic music, with American Appalachian and country accents, by this young 7-piece acoustic ensemble that contains 2 sons and a daughter from the most famous Finnish fiddle family and 2 brothers from a renowned Norwegian fiddle clan. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

U-M Ballroom Dancers. Every Sunday except August 27. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by lessons and practice. 8-10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. \$2. 763-6984.

John Sinclair and Bluestone: Touchstone Cohousing. The Grammy-nominated, Native American Music Award-winning Nevada-based ensemble Bluestone performs traditional blues, rock and folk rock, and Native American and worldbeat music. After its set, the group backs a spoken word performance by Sinclair, the local counterculture legend who has lived in New Orleans for the past several years. 8:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing common room, 560 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Tickets \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. (517) 548-1780.

"Get Up Stand Up": Improv Inferno. Every Sunday. Open mike for up-and-coming local stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. 8:30 p.m., Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. Tickets \$5 in advance and at the door. 214-7080.

Euchre Night: The Heidelberg. Every Sunday. Euchre tournament with prizes. Ages 21 & older admitted. 10 p.m., Heidelberg main dining room, 215 N. Main. \$5. 663-7758.

"The Sweet Spot with Eye Candy": Improv Inferno. Every Sunday. Character-driven improv by the quintet Eye Candy. Alcohol is served. 10 p.m., Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. Tickets \$5 in advance and at the door. 214-7080.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Sketches of Frank Gehry" (Sydney Pollack, 2005). August 6-8. Documentary about the renowned architect. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. MTF Summer Classic Film Series. "Chinatown" (Roman Polanski, 1974). August 6 & 8. Hammett-Chandler style mystery, set in the 30s, about an L.A. private eye drawn into a case by a femme fatale. Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway. Mich., 3 p.m. MTF Sundance Series. "Blood Simple" (Joel Coen, 1984). See 3 Thursday. Mich., 6:15 p.m. MTF.

7 MONDAY

***"Back Road Ramble": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Monday. Slow-paced ride, 20-35 miles, along dirt and gravel roads to the Dexter Dairy Queen or to Independence Lake. 9 a.m., meet at 960 Forest Rd. (off Country Club Dr.), Barton Hills. Free. 761-2885 & 663-5060 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

***"Chelsea Family Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Monday. Family-oriented slow/moderate-paced ride, 35-45 miles, to either Stockbridge or the Munith area. 9 a.m., meet at the north side of Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1178 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 851-8323 & (517) 285-6830 (today's ride), 994-0044 (general information).

***Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** Every Monday. Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, Bible study and chair exercises. Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch (\$1) and socializing. 10 a.m.-noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668-8353.

***Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** Every Monday. Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. with Just for Men, a discussion group for men. Also, "Fitness Fun" (11 a.m.-noon), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, and (except August 28) the Writing Group (1-3 p.m.). The Afternoon Book Group meets on August 28 to discuss a book TBA.

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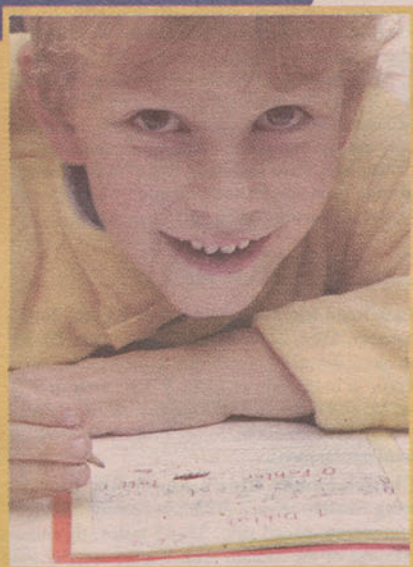
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galleries



Vito Jesus Valdez

*Giant bullets,
dog-men mowing*

A lion with a heart of steel wool, a rain-stick torpedo, and a lawn mower dog-man appear in the Ann Arbor Art Center's show of exuberant works by Detroit multimedia artist and muralist Vito Jesus Valdez. The nine large, colorful paintings and five whimsical sculptures on display combine elements of abstract expressionism, urban street art, and *art brut* ("raw art"). Valdez's lion dominates the show.

Crafted of two-by-fours and brightly painted scrap wood, *King of the Desert/Queen of the Nile* sits on its haunches two yards high, brandishing its arms in heraldic formality, like an ancient Egyptian figure. Glowing in crimson, cobalt, lavender, and curry-orange, the lion figure sports a tail of timber festooned with flat paintbrushes. More layered paintbrushes form a furry chest, where a snarl of paint-smeared steel wool marks its heart. The lurid vitality of this appealingly crude sculpture, which projects a feisty, even belligerent attitude, coaxes a smile from the viewer.

Nearby sits *Torpedo Rainstick*, a slender, copper-colored metal bullet, nearly a yard long, suspended vertically and point down on a horizontal rod that passes through it halfway down its length, supported on a wooden A-shaped frame. Surrounded by a ring two yards across made up of eighteen fist-size or double-fist-size stones, this inter-

active work invites the viewer to tilt the metal bullet in its frame. A racket of metallic rattles and bangs from stones inside the sculpture sounds as the copper bullet is pulled back ninety degrees and then let go. Its interior stones clank and bang as the bullet rocks back and forth, finally coming to rest. The playfulness of a completely purposeless noisemaker is made even more enjoyable by the bright paint swirling over the wooden frame in splashes of primary colors.

Near the Art Center's front door, *Dog Man Mowing* offers a six-foot-tall dog-man constructed of scrap wood, wearily pushing an old junked lawn mower covered completely with drips and blobs of bright-colored paint. The dog-man, painted in a mix of fluorescent and smokier, darker spray paints, once adorned a Detroit park, according to an Art Center staff member.

The exhibit also includes four joyous, multicolored abstract paintings from a series entitled *Corazón de Agua Azul* (pictured) and two bowling-ball-size metal assemblages. On a rough silvery metal base suggesting an obscure car part, the assemblages sport nails, rows of pennies and dimes, a railroad spike, small plumbing accessories, and other finds seemingly collected by a junkyard magpie.

In the Art Center's Gallery 2, on the second floor, appear about a dozen lively works on paper that range from notebook to poster size, resulting from Valdez's work with Detroit local youth. The downstairs and upstairs works are on display through Saturday, August 19.

—Laura Bien

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 West Liberty. Vito Jesus Valdez (through August 19). See review, above. *Real/Surreal*: Joseph Fiedler, Teresa Petersen, Susan Carman-Vian (August 25–October 7). 994-8004.

Ann Arbor District Library, 343 South Fifth Avenue. *New York, September 11*, by Magnum Photographers (August 21–October 11). 327-4510.

Dreamland Theater, 44 East Cross, Ypsilanti. *Jason Lee Starin Is 30* (August 7–31). Reception 11 Friday, 7 p.m. 657-2337.

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Road. *Photographs of Tanzania* by Paula Christensen (through August 31). 665-6158.

Gallery 55+, 2401 Plymouth Road. *Photography by Barbara Bergman and Joan Zald* (August 7–October 27). 998-8353.

Jewish Community Center Amster Gallery, 2935 Birch Hollow. *Second Annual JCC Seniors' Photography Exhibit* (through August 31). 971-0990.

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 North Fourth Avenue. *Photographs by Sam Ritter* (August 1–31). 769-2999.

Kreft Center for the Arts (Concordia College). *Thomas Nast: The Lightning Bolt of Genius* (August 29–October 5). 995-7591.

Lane Hall, 204 South State. *Paintings by Nicole Gordon* (through December 15). 763-2047.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron, Ypsilanti. *August Group Exhibition* (August 3–26). Receptions 4 Friday, 5–7 p.m., and 19 Saturday, noon–2 p.m. 480-2787.

U-M Special Collections Library, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library. *Imaginary Worlds: Created Places in Children's Literature* (August 7–November 22). 764-9377.

Washington Street Gallery, 120 East Liberty. *The Color White* (August 8–September 10). 761-2287.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.

Homemade buffet luncheon (\$3) available at noon. All invited. 11 a.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

★**Knitting and Fellowship: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Monday. All seniors age 55 & older invited. Yarn & knitting needles provided. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

★**"Lunch at Liberty Plaza."** Every Monday. All invited (weather permitting) to join mayor John Hieftje for lunch and conversation. Bring your own lunch. Noon-1 p.m., Liberty Plaza Park, E. Liberty at S. Division. Free. 994-2766.

★**Game Day: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 55 & older invited to play a variety of games. 12:15-2:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

★**"Paved Roads Country Roads Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Monday. Fast-, moderate-, and slow-paced training ride, 18-24 miles, along country roads west of town. 6:30 p.m., meet at Royster Clark, 885 Parker Rd. at Pine Cross Lane (just south of Jackson Rd.), Scio Twp. Free. 426-5116 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★**"The Civilized Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Monday. Slow-paced ride, 12-18 miles, to Dexter, with a possible stop for ice cream. 7 p.m. sharp, Wellington Park, Alice at Bruce St. (off Arborview from Miller). Free. 996-2974 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★**"Volleyball in the Park": Ann Arbor Ski Club.** Every Monday. All adults age 21 & older invited to play volleyball. All skill levels welcome. Postgame socializing at CUBS' AC. 7 p.m.-dark, Burns Park (just east of the picnic pavilion), corner of Wells & Baldwin. Free. 761-3419.

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Every Monday. A series of concerts by area organists. Today: Episcopal Church of St. Matthew and St. Joseph (Detroit) organist Tim Huth. 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi, 2250 E. Stadium. Donation. (313) 965-5422.

★**Carillon Concerts: U-M School of Music.** August 7, 14, & 21. Bring lawn chairs and a picnic to outdoor concerts at Burton Bell Tower. Tonight: Culver Academies (Culver, Indiana) carillonist John Gouwens performs music TBA. Visitors can tour the tower after the concert. 7 p.m., Burton Tower. Free. 764-0594.

Dream Group. Every Monday. All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. 7:30 p.m., location TBA. Donation. 662-5925.

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Monday. Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. 9-11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$5 team fee. 665-2968.

FILMS

MTF. "Sketches of Frank Gehry" (Sydney Pollack, 2005). See 6 Sunday. Mich., times TBA.

8 TUESDAY

★**Primary Election.** There are contested Democratic council primaries in the 1st, 3rd, and 5th wards, as well as in several county commissioner districts and the state house district that includes most of Ann Arbor. For more about the primaries, see "Minority Rule," p. 21. Polls are open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. If you are unsure about where to vote or need information about absentee ballots, call the county clerk at 994-2503.

★**Ann Arbor Checkers and Draughts Society.** August 8 & 22. Adults invited to play checkers, known as draughts in England. Also, participants can try to solve tricky end-of-game brainteasers. 6:30 p.m., downtown cafe TBA. Free. 827-0328.

★**"Wild Chef": Ann Arbor District Library.** Monahan's Seafood market Chef Chewy offers a hands-on introduction to preparing wild and crazy dishes. 6:30-8:30 p.m., AADL Mallets Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All invited to discuss *Way Station*, Clifford Simak's novel about a lonely Wisconsin farmhouse that conceals a wormhole into other galaxies. Refreshments. 7-9 p.m., 3184 Angell Hall. Free. 764-2553.

★**"Rosiculture": Huron Valley Rose Society.** Talk by a rosarian TBA. Refreshments. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 424-9321.

★**Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss *The Living Great Lakes: Searching for*

the Heart of the Inland Seas, Jerry Dennis's account of his travels around the Great Lakes on schooner, racing yacht, and voyageur canoe. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 332-0207.

Del Castillo: The Ark. See review, p. 67. Acclaimed flamenco fusion sextet from Austin that's fronted by vocalist and flamenco dancer Alex Ruiz. The band's music spices traditional flamenco music with rock rhythms and tempos and R&B soulfulness. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"Dungeons and Dragons Comedy Improv": Dreamland Theater.** See 1 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Sketches of Frank Gehry" (Sydney Pollack, 2005). See 6 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. MTF Summer Classic Film Series. "Chinatown" (Roman Polanski, 1974). See 6 Sunday. Mich., 7 p.m.

9 WEDNESDAY

★**"Play a Beat with Hands and Feet": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local percussionist Aron Kaufman leads kids ages 5-7 in creating rhythms with their hands, feet, and a variety of drums and other percussion instruments. 10-10:45 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Music in the Park": Herb David Guitar Studio.** See 1 Tuesday. Today: Cynthia Jones. Noon-2 p.m.

★**"Make It and Take It Art Project: Quilts": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for kids age 5 & up. Note: This program is also offered at 2 p.m. at the Mallets Creek (August 7), Northeast (August 8), and Pittsfield (August 10) branches. 2-4 p.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301 (main library), 327-4200 (branches).

★**"Petersburgh Prairie Lake Plain Prairie Excursion": Wild Ones.** All invited to join members of this native-plant landscaping group for a hike to a prairie. Be prepared to bushwhack. 5:45 p.m., meet at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens to carpool, 1600 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 622-9997.

★**"Urban Containers": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL staffers show how to transform an ordinary plant pot into a work of art. Bring your own container, or use one provided by the library. Mosaic tiles, glass marbles, paint, and glue provided. Plants and soil provided by Abbott's Nursery. 6:30-8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4200.

★**"Come Together for Peace": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** This family outing held commemorating the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki includes a potluck dinner (bring a dish), games for kids, local storytellers LaRon Williams and Robert Oppenheimer, and a talk by a survivor of the Nagasaki bombing 61 years ago today. Crafts include origami peace crane folding and lantern boats, to be launched at dusk. 6:30 p.m.-dusk, Island Park (off Maiden Lane between Broadway & Fuller). Free. 663-1870.

★**"Construction Night": Arrow Communication Association Amateur Radio Club.** All invited to build a small electronic doodad TBA. 7 p.m., Washtenaw Community College room BE 182, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. \$20 materials fee (\$20 annual dues). 930-6564.

★**"Herbs for the Immune System": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. 7-8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975-4500.

★**History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** Retired social worker Myrna Lueck leads a discussion of Thomas Frank's *What's the Matter with Kansas? How Conservatives Won the Heart of America*. 7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 111 E. Ann. Free. 369-2499.

★**Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of *The Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingsolver's best-seller about an evangelical Baptist who takes his family to the Belgian Congo in 1959. Refreshments. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 973-0846.

Dixie Power Trio: The Ark. Actually a quartet, this Dixieland ensemble led by tubaist Andy Kochenour plays everything from New Orleans jazz to Louis Jordan jump blues to Lennon & McCartney to the Ramones. Other members include banjoist Bert Carlson, drummer Byron McWilliams, and Chelsea native Zach Smith on trumpet, accordion, and washboard. The band has a new live CD, *Let's All Go Down to New Orleans*. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other

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films

Blood Simple Texas noir

When it was shown at the still fledgling Sundance Film Festival in 1985, *Blood Simple* astounded audiences around the world with its playfully professional yet grisly homage to the noir and horror film genres. Brothers Joel and Ethan Coen ushered in a new era with this hugely successful independent film. Made on a shoestring budget and written, produced, and directed by the Coens, *Blood Simple* was proof that high-quality, commercially viable feature films could be made outside the corporate film studios.

Set in a nameless Texas town, this quirky drama starts with wide shots of deserted highways, lonely oil pumps, vast prairie and panhandle, its faceless rhythms and empty distances establishing a world far from the moral safety of human society. We soon find ourselves in a car moving down the highway in a torrential downpour that all but blocks any view of the oncoming roadway. Ray (John Getz) and Abby (Frances McDormand) speak nervously to each other in the car about the possibility that Abby's husband, Marty, might catch them. Suddenly they stop the car and

realize that a junky VW bug has been following them. We cut to a roadside motel and see them between the sheets as lights from passing cars flash shadows around the little room.

Cut to a desktop with cowboy-booted feet in the middle and a folder of pictures thrown down beside them. "Thought you might like these," gloats the sleazy, devious, uneven voice of Loren Visser, the misanthropic investigator played with white-trash relish by M. Emmet Walsh. As Marty, Dan Hedaya plays a mean, intensely edgy scorned husband. Though he exudes an intimidating hostility, Marty is incapable of carrying out violence on his own—so he's hired Visser to murder the cheating couple. Visser brought the pictures to prove that he kept his part of the deal—but after he collects his money, he murders Marty. It turns out that not only is Visser working for someone else but Ray and Abby aren't even dead. But when they find out Marty is dead, fear exposes their underlying distrust of each other, and their love turns rancid.

The film's quirky suspense is well done, with nervous camera angles and lighting ef-



fects, but it seems indulgent at times. The camera may linger too long after a shot, or take too much time in setting up a shot. The plot gets hard to follow in spots. Abby and Ray lack the steamy, intense, blind sexual attraction of Lana Turner and John Garfield in *The Postman Always Rings Twice* or Fred MacMurray and Barbara Stanwyck in *Double Indemnity*. But it is an entertaining film, fun, with lots of twists and turns, plenty of blood, and even some laughter—not to mention great background music.

Blood Simple is shown as part of the Michigan Theater's Sundance Series Thursday and Sunday, August 3 and 6.

—Dan Moray

9 WEDNESDAY continued

Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Honus & Me": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday, 3 & 8 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Our Brand Is in Crisis" (Rachel Boynton, 2005). August 9 & 10. Documentary on American political campaign marketing tactics and their consequences. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

10 THURSDAY

*"Dressage at Waterloo": Waterloo Hunt Club. August 10-13 & 25-27. These two multi-day competitions of equine ballet by skilled regional horses and riders are highlighted by dazzling, graceful freestyle routines set to music and featuring moves such as the *pirouette*, the *passage* (slow, elevated trot), the *piaffe* (passage in place), and the *half-pass* (moving forward and sideways). Bring your own lawn chairs; no pets. Food concessions and vendor area. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Waterloo Hunt Club, Glenn at Katz (west off Mount Hope Rd. from I-94 exit 150), Grass Lake. Free. 426-2088.

9th Annual Milan Bluegrass Festival: Jim Wilder & Jerry Yates. August 10-12. Three days of bluegrass music performed by leading regional and national performers. Today's lineup: Grand Ole Country (noon & 6:45 p.m.), R&L Express (12:45 & 6 p.m.), NewFound Road (1:30 & 8:15 p.m.), Wildfire (2:15 & 7:30 p.m.), Dan Paisley & the Southern Grass (3 & 9:45 p.m.), the Carolina Road Band (3:45 & 10:30 p.m.), and Gary Waldrep (4:30 & 9 p.m.). Noon-midnight, KC Campground, 14048 Sherman Rd. (US-23 to Exit 25; southeast on Plank Rd.), Milan. Tickets \$45 (for all 3 days) in advance by August 1; \$60 (all 3 days) & \$30 (per day) at the gate. (248) 435-2828, (248) 813-0260.

*"Community Tent": Ann Arbor Alive. See 3 Thursday. Today: Grand River Band of the Ottawa storyteller Larry "Pun" Plamondon, a 60s activist who cofounded the Ann Arbor-based White Panther Party, reads from his memoir *Lost from the Ottawa: The Story of the Journey Back*, and the local blues and rock band Cow Catchers performs music from its new CD. 3-7 p.m.

"Suds on the River": Huron River Watershed Council. A chance to sample beers brewed with water from the Huron Valley watershed from the Arbor Brewing Company, Grizzly Peak, and the Jolly Pumpkin breweries. Live blues, country, and classic rock by local band Loose Dogs Bite. Snacks. 6-8

p.m., location TBA. \$75 (members, \$50) in advance only. 769-5123, ext. 19.

*"Sounds and Sights on Thursday Nights": Chelsea Center for the Arts & Chelsea Retail Advisory Council. See 3 Thursday. Tonight: Celtic music by the Chelsea House Orchestra, bluegrass by On the Fence, folk music by Blacktrain, fiddle music by Fiddlers Anonymous, folk-rock by Luke Sayers & The Last to Know, contemporary folk by the Bob Skon Trio, Hawaiian music by the Continental Islanders, and electric blues by Bull Halsey. Also, juggler Josh Casey and body painting by Express Yourself Body Art. 6-8 p.m.

*Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health. Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663-9724.

"Micro Madness": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about a wide variety of beers from microbreweries around the country. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. 7-9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets \$25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213-1393.

*Town Meeting: Megiddo Peace Project. All invited to join a discussion on a variety of current topics relevant to Ann Arbor. Refreshments. 7-9 p.m., 310 S. Ashley. Free. 761-7967.

*"American Birth in the 21st Century": New Moon Midwifery. All invited to join a discussion of soaring C-section rates, low breast-feeding rates, and other hot issues surrounding childbirth. Moderated by New Moon Midwifery midwife Merilynne Rush. 7:30-9 p.m., 722 Brooks off Miller. Free. 424-0220.

Tinsley Ellis: The Ark. Electric blues band led by Ellis, a veteran blues guitarist from Atlanta who's regularly compared to the likes of Johnny Winter and Stevie Ray Vaughan. Ellis is a skillful songwriter and an appealingly husky-voiced singer, but his claim to fame is the way he wields a guitar, mixing stinging slide work with terse, taut single-note runs. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Twelfth Night": Brass Tacks Ensemble. August 10-13. James Ingagiola directs this local ensemble in Shakespeare's comedy of misplaced affections and mistaken identities. Viola, a noblewoman shipwrecked on the coast of Illyria, disguises herself as a man and finds work as a servant to Duke Orsino, with whom she promptly falls in love. But when the duke sends his new servant to court a young widow on his behalf, the widow becomes enamored of Viola. After several additional gender-bending plot twists, everyone eventually snaps back into place, but with a variety of delightful and surprising differences. Stars director Ingagiola, Anne Rhoades, and

Elif Wisecup. Note: This production reopens at the Kerrytown Concert House on August 17 (see listing). 8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. \$12 (students, \$8) at the door only. 330-4615.

"I Am My Own Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"Honus & Me": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"The Catfight": Improv Inferno. See 3 Thursday, 8 p.m.

*"Moonshadow Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Slow-, moderate-, and fast-paced rides, 8-24 miles, along the Gallup Park pathway. Weather permitting. 10 p.m., Mitchell Field parking lot (east end), Fuller Rd. Free. 485-4018 (tonight's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

"High Octane": Improv Inferno. See 3 Thursday, 10 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Sundance Series. "Smoke Signals" (Chris Eyre, 1998). August 10 & 12. Road movie about a nerdy Native American teen who helps a friend from their Idaho reservation get to Phoenix to pick up his estranged father's remains. Screenplay by Sherman Alexie, adapted from his short story collection *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7:15 p.m. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. MTF. "Our Brand Is in Crisis" (Rachel Boynton, 2005). See 9 Wednesday, Mich., times TBA.

11 FRIDAY

*"Dexter Daze": Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce. August 11 & 12. Two days of fun and festivities in Monument Park. Includes arts and crafts booths, a social tent, specialty food booths, a bingo tent, special exhibits at the Dexter Area Historical Museum, merchant sidewalk sales, and yard sales around town. Also, an American Legion Hall steak fry August 11, and (tentatively) a St. James Episcopal Church chicken barbecue August 12. Free shuttle transportation available from Dexter Crossings shopping plaza on Dexter-Ann Arbor Road and from Bates School on Baker Road. Today's entertainment: high-spirited family-oriented musical entertainment by the Pinckney band *Chautauqua Express* (11 a.m.-noon), the puppet troupe *Puppet Adventures* (12:30-1:30 p.m.), children's music by Kevin Devine (2-3 p.m.), veteran Ann Arbor big band II-V-I Orchestra (3:30-5 p.m.), classic-rock dance music by Big Pinky and the Joint Effort Band (5:30-7:30 p.m.), and jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop by the Laith Al-Saadi Trio (8-11 p.m.). Also, on the Monu-

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11 FRIDAY continued

ment Park lawn, Colors the Clown (3:30-5 p.m.). 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Dexter Monument Park, intersection of Dexter-Ann Arbor & Baker rds., Dexter. Free shuttle bus service from Dexter High School. Free admission. 426-0887.

★“Music in the Park”: Herb David Guitar Studio. See 1 Tuesday. Today: the local psychedelic southern rock band Trembling Earth. Noon-2 p.m.

9th Annual Milan Bluegrass Festival: Jim Wilder & Jerry Yates. See 10 Thursday. Today's lineup: Continental Divide (noon & 9 p.m.), Dan Paisley & the Southern Grass (12:45 & 6 p.m.), Jerry & Tammy Sullivan (1:30 & 6:45 p.m.), Carolina Road Band (2:15 & 10:30 p.m.), Lost and Found (3 & 7:30 p.m.), The Grascals (3:45 & 9:45 p.m.), and Illrd Tyme Out (4:30 & 8:15 p.m.). Noon-11:30 p.m., Milan.

★“A Play Is Born”: Young People's Theater Summer Theater Camp Production. Mary Thomas directs local young actors in their original production, the culmination of their summer theater camp. 1 p.m., Daycroft Montessori School, 1095 Zeeb Rd. Free. 222-4006.

★James Conroyd Martin: Nicola's Books. This historical novelist discusses *Push Not the River*, his sweeping saga about life in 19th-century Poland that is based on the unpublished diary of countess Anna Maria Berezowska. Also, signing. 1-3 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-0600.

★The Yiddish Group: Jewish Community Center. All invited for readings and discussion of Yiddish literature selections TBA. Also, singing of Yiddish songs. 1:30-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

★“Dance Casserole”: Ann Arbor District Library. Megan Rose Smith introduces kids ages 8-11 to a dynamic mix of dance techniques—including ballet, modern, yoga, African, jazz, and hip-hop—for participants to use in choreographing a group dance. 2-2:45 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4200.

★“Summerfest”: Saline Chamber of Commerce. August 11 & 12. Two days of family fun that includes a car show, displays by the Saline Historical Society, kids activities, and sidewalk sales. Today's special events: a euchre tournament (6:30 p.m.), blackjack tournament (8 p.m.), and music by a DJ and by the band New Horizons. Tomorrow's special events: picnicking in downtown parking lot #1 behind Dan's Tavern, and music by Luke Schaible, the A La Carte Singers, the Saline Fiddlers, the Saline Big Band, a barbershop quartet, and a high school cheerleading step-dancing band. 5-11 p.m. (today) & 7 a.m.-11 p.m. (Saturday), downtown Saline. Free. 429-4494.

★“Readers Group”: Sun Moon Yoga Studio. All invited to discuss T. K. V. Desikachar's *The Heart of Yoga*. 7-9 p.m., Sun Moon Yoga, 404 W. Huron. Free. 929-0274.

★Daniel Silva: Arborland Borders. This best-selling novelist reads from *The Messenger*, his latest thriller featuring Israeli art restorer and spy Gabriel Allon. When a Saudi terrorist group threatens the pope, Allon enlists the aid of a beautiful American art expert. 7 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6948.

★“Street Fight”: Ann Arbor District Library. Screening of Marshall Curry's Oscar-nominated 2005 documentary chronicling the bare-knuckles race for mayor of Newark between 2 African Americans, one a 32-year-old Yale Law School grad and the other a 4-term incumbent who heads an old-style political machine. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

★“Jammin' Michigan Avenue.” See 4 Friday. Tonight's performers: Barbara Payton, a Detroit rock 'n' soul singer, and Mumble, a local art-rock quartet. 7-10 p.m.

The Iguanas: The Ark. A mix of Tex-Mex, rock 'n' roll, Cajun, zydeco, and Louisiana funk by this New Orleans party band. The band's fans include Dave Alvin, who has written several songs for them. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$17.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

“Twelfth Night”: Brass Tacks Ensemble. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

“Honus & Me”: Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

“I Am My Own Wife”: Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

“Improv and Sketch Comedy”: Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

J. R. Remick: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. August 11 & 12. This engaging Detroit comic specializes in riotously goofy stories built around his impressions of cartoon characters and TV and movie stars. On Thursdays the headliner is preceded by as

many as 6 rookie comics; on weekends, the headliner is preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$8 reserved seating in advance, \$10 general admission at the door. 996-9080.

“Damnation Game”: Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. 10 p.m.

“The X Show”: Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. Midnight.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. “Little Miss Sunshine” (Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris, 2006). August 11-24. Road trip comedy about a dysfunctional family brought together by the daughter's dream of competing in a beauty pageant. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. U-M Center for Japanese Studies. “Teens, Angst, and Rock 'n' roll: Seishun Eiga, Then and Now.” See 4 Friday. Today: *Crazed Fruit* (Ko Nakahira, 1956), a controversial, nihilistic tale of wanton lust between 2 men and the woman they both love. Lorch Hall auditorium, 7 p.m.

12 SATURDAY

“Huron River Cleanup”: Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a canoe trip to clean up debris from the river. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 7:45 a.m., meet at Skip's Canoe Rental, Delhi Metropark, E. Delhi Rd. at Huron River Dr., Dexter. \$26 per canoe. Park entry fee: \$4/day, \$20/year; age 62 & over, \$12/year. Pre-registration required. 426-8211.

★Restoration Work Day: U-M Nichols Arboretum. All invited to help Arb director Bob Grese and Arb staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you wish. 9 a.m.-noon, meet at an Arb location TBA. Free. 998-9540.

★Mushroom Foray: Michigan Mushroom Hunter's Club. All invited to join club members on a hunt for edible fungi. Bring a bag lunch, compass, whistle, basket, and knife. All mushrooms are evaluated by experts for edibility after the hunt. Followed at 11 a.m. by a potluck; bring a dish to pass and table service. 9 a.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. 971-2552.

★“Dexter Daze”: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce. See 11 Friday. Today's special events include a library book sale (9 a.m.-4 p.m.), a farmers' market (9 a.m.-1 p.m.), a parade from Wylie School down Main Street (10 a.m.) followed by a fire truck muster at the American Legion Hall, a car wash at Creekside Middle School, raffle of a playhouse modeled on Gordon Hall, and a cash raffle with \$10,000, \$5,000, and \$3,000 prizes. Today's entertainment: Colors the Clown (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.), local clown Zeemo the Magnificent (12:30-1:30 p.m.), magician Jeff Wawrzaszek (2-3 p.m.), mainstream jazz by the Edie Herrold Quartet (3:30-5 p.m.), bluegrass by the RFD Boys (5:30-7:30 p.m.), and rockabilly by George Bedard & the Kingpins (8-11 p.m.). 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Dexter.

★“Holistic Approaches to Chronic Pain and Fatigue”: Whole Foods Market. Talk by local naturopath Audrey Blagsvedt. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975-4500.

★“Claymation”: Ann Arbor District Library. Claymation animator Brad Patullo shows youths in grades 6-12 how to fabricate a clay puppet for animation. Pizza & beverages provided. Noon-5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 327-8301.

★“Music in the Park”: Herb David Guitar Studio. See 1 Tuesday. Today: Six-Foot Pole. Noon-2 p.m.

9th Annual Milan Bluegrass Festival: Jim Wilder & Jerry Yates. See 10 Thursday. Today's highlights include two 45-minute sets by former International Bluegrass Music Association Entertainer of the Year Rhonda Vincent & the Rage (4:30 & 9 p.m.). Today's lineup also includes the Wildwood Valley Boys (noon & 6 p.m.), The Karl Shiflett & Big Country Show (12:45 & 6:45 p.m.), Pine Mountain Railroad (1:30 & 9:45 p.m.), Gerald Evans (2:15 & 10:30 p.m.), Kenny & Amanda Smith (3 & 8:15 p.m.), and The Lewis Family (3:45 & 7:30 p.m.). Noon-11:30 p.m., Milan.

“Super Science Shows”: Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. Every Saturday & Sunday beginning August 12. Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. 1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 219 E. Huron. \$7.50 (students & seniors, \$6) regular museum admission. 995-5439.

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DEWIS SCHMIEDEKE

The Ypsilanti Historic Homes Tour Aug. 20 offers the chance to view six properties in the city, including this 1840s Gothic Revival.

★**"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society.** This popular monthly 6-hour festival of Japanese animation features episodes from *Kiba*, a series about a teen living in Calm whom a wind invites into a time-space crevasse, where he meets the Shard Casters. Also, episodes from *Loveless*, about a 12-year-old who lost his brother under mysterious circumstances and seeks revenge, and *Kagihime*, about a rumored 3rd volume of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* and the magical bunny-girl warriors who battle each other for its pages. Specific showtimes TBA. Japanese subtitles. Also, a raffle and sale of T-shirts. U-M campus admission policy: No one 18 or under admitted without an adult. 5-11:30 p.m., MLB 3, 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free. For more information, visit the website at umich.edu/~animania.

"Satisfaction Guaranteed," "Reality Incorporated," and "Dirt": Dreamland Theater. See 5 Saturday, 7 p.m.

★**Claudia Mair Burney: Barnes & Noble.** This local writer discusses her new multicultural mystery novel, *Mischief, Mayhem, and a Fine Man*, which she describes as "CSI Meets Emergent Church." Refreshments. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 973-0846.

NOMO: The Ark. See review, p. 71. A mix of Afrobeat and P-Funk-style R&B with Sun Ra- and Coltrane-influenced jazz and avant-garde composers like Harry Partch by this local ensemble featuring members of Cloud Nine Music and others. The band's acclaimed second recording, *New Tones*, on the California-based Ubiquity Records was produced by His Name Is Alive maestro Warren Defever. Dustygroove.com call it "mindblowing work from one of the greatest new groups we've heard in years." 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Twelfth Night": Brass Tacks Ensemble. See 10 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"Honus & Me": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday, 3 & 8 p.m.

"I Am My Own Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"Improv and Sketch Comedy": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday, 8 p.m.

J. R. Remick: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Friday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday, 10 p.m.

"The X Show": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. Mid-night.

FILMS

MTF. "Little Miss Sunshine" (Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris, 2006). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA. MTF Sundance Series. "Smoke Signals" (Chris Eyre, 1998). See 10 Thursday. Mich., 4 p.m.



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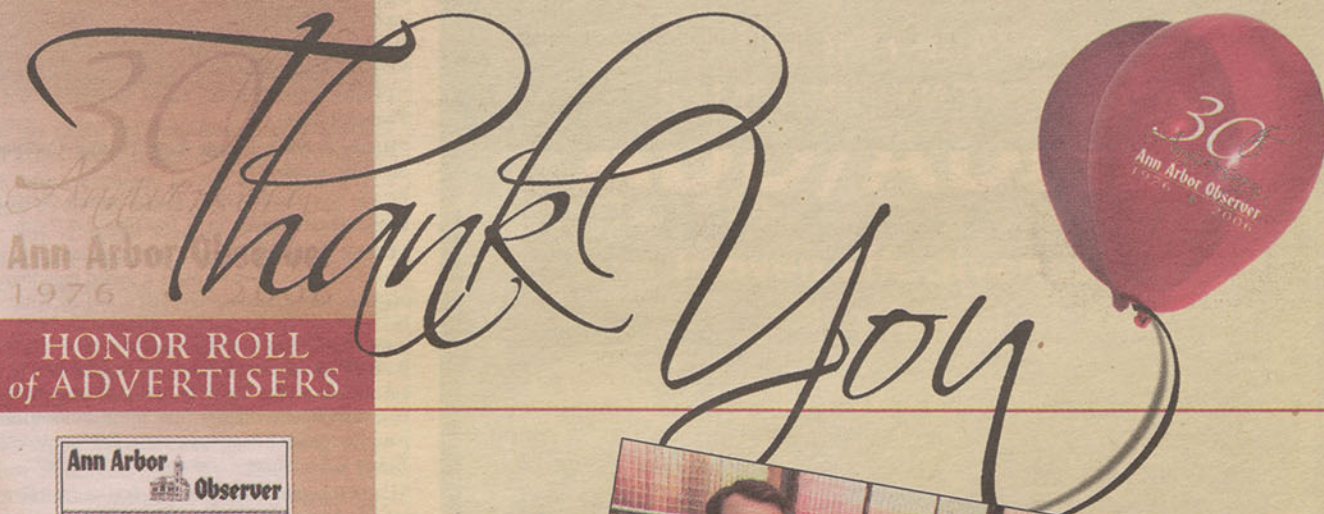
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EVENTS continued

13 SUNDAY

★**"Double Century":** Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Fast-paced 200-mile ride that includes some of the club's One Helluva Ride routes. 6:45 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 769-0425 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★**"Washtenaw County Roundup":** Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Fast-paced 100-mile and moderate-paced 73-mile rides circling around the county, "searching the small towns for strays." Also, a slow-paced 40-mile ride with a similar itinerary leaves at 10 a.m. from Aberdeen Bike, 1178 S. Main, in Chelsea. 9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994-0730 (100-mile ride), 434-3097 (73-mile ride), 997-7484 (40-mile ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★**Sharon Mills Tours: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** August 13, 20, & 27. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads 30-minute tours around this park on the River Raisin that features a beautiful multicolored stone house, a wooden mill, and a former winery, plus spots for fishing, canoeing, and picnicking. 1 & 3 p.m., Sharon Mills Park, 5701 Sharon Hollow Rd., Manchester. Free. 971-6337.

★**"Twelfth Night":** Brass Tacks Ensemble. See 10 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"Honus & Me":** Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★**"I Am My Own Wife":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**FUBAR: Heavenly Metal.** This exuberant, polished local rock 'n' roll sextet plays a varied repertoire of originals and choice covers, and is led by Kingpins bassist Randy Tessier and former Map of the World vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Other musicians TBA. A benefit for O. J. Anderson, the extremely popular local physical comedian who has been unable to work for over two years due to injuries from a car accident. 5-10 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse patio, 2501 Jackson Rd. Tickets \$25 in advance or at the door. 663-4247.

★**Tim O'Reagan: The Blind Pig.** Pop-smart folk-rock by this Minneapolis singer-songwriter, a former drummer with the Jayhawks who now plays guitar. He recently released his eponymous debut on the prestigious Lost Highway label. 8 p.m.-midnight (doors open at 8 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. Ashley. Tickets \$10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

★**"Get Up Stand Up":** Improv Inferno. See 6 Sunday. 8:30 p.m.

★**"The Sweet Spot with Eye Candy":** Improv Inferno. See 6 Sunday. 10 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Summer Classic Film Series. **"The Night of the Hunter"** (Charles Laughton, 1955). August 13 & 15. Expressionistic black-comedy thriller about a psychotic ex-con preacher who terrorizes 2 orphaned children in order to get his hands on a cache of money stashed away by their father. Screenplay by James Agee. Robert Mitchum, Shelley Winters, Lillian Gish. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 3 p.m. MTF. **"Little Miss Sunshine"** (Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris, 2006). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

14 MONDAY

★**The Barony of Cynnabar.** Every Monday except August 7. All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism to work on recreating different aspects of medieval culture, including combat, dancing, singing, clothing, and many other arts & crafts. 7 p.m., 1311 EECS, 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. Information at cynnabar.org.

★**"Night and Day: A Miniature Book Making Workshop":** Ann Arbor District Library. Bloodroot Press owner Jean Buescher Bartlett shows participants how to write, illustrate, and bind a miniature book. For youths age 10 & older and adults. 7-8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

★**"Allergies and Asthma Arrested":** Whole Foods Market. Talk by local chiropractor Darren Schmidt. 7-8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975-4500.

★**Carillon Concerts:** U-M School of Music. See 7 Monday. Today: Dutch carillonneur Roy Kroezen performs music TBA. Visitors can tour the tower after the concert. 7 p.m., Burton Tower. Free. 764-0594.

★**Summer Organ Series:** St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. See 7 Monday. Today: Concordia

University and Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church organist Jason Alden. 7 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. **"Little Miss Sunshine"** (Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris, 2006). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

15 TUESDAY

★**"Juggling Fun":** Ann Arbor District Library. Local juggler Josh Casey presents an interactive program for kids ages 3 & up that includes juggling tricks, mystery solving, guitar solos, and hilarious antics. 10-10:45 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.; & 2-2:45 p.m., Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School Rd. & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

★**SpiritSisters Women's Circle.** All women invited to discuss spirituality, relationships, empowerment, metaphysics, and healing. Short meditation session. Bring divination tools, if you like. 7 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. \$3. 741-0478.

★**"Red Fish Blue Fish Teach Kids to Fish":** Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. Kids of all ages (accompanied by a parent) invited to catch some fish. Poles and bait provided. 7-8:30 p.m., meet on the docks at the Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). \$2 per child. 662-9319.

★**"The Health of the Great Lakes Today":** Ann Arbor District Library. Panel discussion with U.S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center research fishery biologist Bruce Manny, Great Lakes Science Center branch chief Jaci Savino, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory aquatic biologist Tom Nalepa. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

★**Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to discuss David Feinstein, Donna Eden, and Gary Craig's *The Promise of Energy Psychology: Revolutionary Tools for Dramatic Personal Change*. 7-9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★**Vivaldi Strings Youth Orchestra:** Ann Arbor District Library. Performance by this ensemble of 28 young string musicians from the Wheaton (Illinois) College School of the Arts Suzuki Program. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4200.

★**"Hunters of the Sky: Up Close and Personal with Live Hawks, Falcons, and Owls":** Huron Valley Sierra Club/ Washtenaw Audubon Society. Leslie Science Center naturalist Francie Krawcke discusses and demonstrates live hawks, falcons, and owls. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 977-5630.

★**"Dungeons and Dragons Comedy Improv":** Dreamland Theater. See 1 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. **"Little Miss Sunshine"** (Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris, 2006). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA. MTF Summer Classic Film Series. **"The Night of the Hunter"** (Charles Laughton, 1955). See 13 Sunday. Mich., 7 p.m.

16 WEDNESDAY

★**"The Art of Scrapbooking":** Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to bring memorabilia from an event to put in a scrapbook. Materials provided. 2-4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4200.

★**"Snack like an Italian":** Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staffer Aaron Stek discusses and offers taste samples of a variety of Italian snacks that can be put together quickly without any cooking. 7-9 p.m., Zingerman's, 422 Detroit St. \$20. Reservations required. 663-3400.

★**"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown":** Children's Creative Center. August 16-19. Barton Bund directs a cast of kids ages 5-11 in Clark Gesner's musical based on Charles Schulz's beloved Peanuts cartoon. Songs include "Happiness" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." A benefit reception (ticket price TBA) follows tonight's performance. 7:30 p.m., Atwood Performing Arts Theater, Children's Creative Center, 1600 Pauline Blvd. Tickets (price TBA) in advance and at the door. 332-3848.

★**"Weird Wednesday":** Dreamland Theater. Monthly open stage for off-the-wall performance artists, screenings of short videos and films, monologists, comics, musicians, and what organizers call "other avant bards." Performers can sign up shortly before the show. 8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Donation. 834-1782.

flamenco fusion



Del Castillo Rock goes Latin

They call this music flamenco rock, and Del Castillo is not the only band in Austin that plays it. Perhaps it got started with *El Mariachi*, Austin filmmaker Robert Rodriguez's delightful low-budget romp in which a flamenco-playing guitarist smiles and picks his way through a grim border town infested with insane gang violence. Rodriguez's sister Patricia Vonne has mixed flamenco into her Latin-rock style, but Del Castillo goes beyond what others have done: blazing acoustic-guitar runs show up in almost every song, from flat-out rockers to ballads to intense Afro-Caribbean jams. Del Castillo doesn't go deeply into the vocabulary of flamenco, with its swirl of Gypsy, Jewish, and Islamic layers. Instead, flamenco serves as a pathway between rock guitar and Latin roots.

This six-person Austin band is the creation of brothers Rick and Mark del Castillo, who also have a Robert Rodriguez connection: the band provided music for several of his films and also for Quentin Tarantino's *Kill Bill, Vol. 2*. The brothers have a worthy counterpart in Rick "The Rev" Holmes, a conservatory-trained percussionist with a whole battery of mostly Caribbean instruments. With Afro-Caribbean rhythms playing off the del Castillo brothers' twin guitars

and the gritty yet passionate vocals of Alex "El Lobo" Ruiz, things really get cooking on the longer numbers on the band's three albums. Live, the group is supposed to be better still. A grainy YouTube video—shot on someone's phone at a San Antonio restaurant—suggests that's true.

Del Castillo has strong original songwriting chops to go with the compelling musical mixture. The vocalists sing in both Spanish and English, and with the anthemic quality of some of the bigger rock pieces, a little Spanish will take you a long way. These musicians know the value of not being subtle sometimes: they do some big, brash, simple rock songs, and there's an echo of over-the-top Mexican balladry in their slower material (listen to the lovely "Perdónname"—"Forgive Me"—from their current *Brotherhood* album, with Ruiz's voice floating in passionate long notes over polyrhythms in the two guitars). But for each song that's straightforward there's one that adds something unexpected. They hark back to Santana's Latin blues-rock ("Barrio Blues"); they do zippy dance pieces with odd flavors ("Yiddish March"); they slow things down with unclassifiable instrumentals ("Mexican Lounge Lizard").

In all, after two decades of looking for the band to fill the shoes of Los Lobos, we just might have found it. Del Castillo comes to the Ark on Tuesday, August 8.

—James M. Manheim

★**"Honus & Me":** Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. **"The Devil and Daniel Johnston"** (Jeff Feuerzeig, 2005). August 16 & 17. Documentary about Johnston, a manic-depressive singer-songwriter. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Little Miss Sunshine"** (Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris, 2006). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

17 THURSDAY

★**"Share a Story":** Briarwood Mall. A storyteller TBA reads Margie Larsen and Mary Ann Dudko's *Barney Plays Nose to Toes*. Also, an appearance by Barney, coloring, and a snack. 11 a.m., Briarwood Sears court. Free. 769-9610.

★**"Music in the Park":** Herb David Guitar Studio. See 1 Tuesday. Today: Highway Muse, an Ypsilanti-based experimental psychedelic folk-rock singer-songwriter who also goes by the name of Anni Paisley. Noon-2 p.m.

★**"Mushrooms and Sea Vegetables":** Whole Foods Market. Talk by a Whole Foods staff member TBA. 1-2 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975-4500.

★**"Community Tent":** Ann Arbor Alive. See 3 Thursday. Today: TBA. 3-7 p.m.

★**"Sounds and Sights on Thursday Nights":** Chelsea Center for the Arts & Chelsea Retail Advisory Council. See 3 Thursday. Tonight: vocal music by Company C, bluegrass by the Kickshaws, vocalist Paul Taylor, Celtic music by the Celtic Players, jump blues by the Strong Suits, accordion tunes by Songs You Remember, and folk music by Greg Zee. Also, magician Michael McGivern, juggler Zeemo, and kids entertainment by the Balloon Emporium. 6-8 p.m.

★**"Last Best Chance: Threats of Nuclear Weapons":** Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Screening of Ben Goddard's 2005 docudrama exploring a scenario in which Al-Qaeda members obtain access to nuclear weapons. Lentil soup and salad dinner included. 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Free. 663-1870.

★**Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. 7-9:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975-4669.

★**Ann Arbor Italian Meet-Up.** All invited to mingle with Italian speakers and practice your Italian. All skill levels welcome. 7 p.m., Paesano's, 3411 Washtenaw. Free. 949-2239.



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17 THURSDAY continued

★“Keeping Your Bones Strong and Healthy.” Talk by local holistic health care practitioner Malcolm Sickels. Note: Sickels also offers this talk at Whole Foods Market (3135 Washtenaw) on August 24 and in the Touchstone Cohousing common room (560 Little Lake Dr.) on August 31. 7 p.m., 210 Little Lake Dr., suite 10 (off Parkland Dr. from eastbound Jackson Rd. between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. Reservations requested. 975-4500.

★“Texas Hold ‘Em Block Party”: Main Street Area Association. The Ann Arbor Jaycees host Texas Hold ‘Em poker tournaments in two big tents (7-9 & 9-11 p.m.). Also, display of classic cards. Live music by Big Pinky and the Joint Effort Band (7-10 p.m.). Food available. 7-11 p.m., Main Street between William and Washington. Free. 668-7112.

★“You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown”: Children’s Creative Center. See 16 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

The Ditty Bops: The Ark. California female duo known for their tightly woven vocal harmonies whose music draws on folk, ragtime, psychedelic pop, western swing, and early vocal jazz. There is also a theatrical side to their act, which can include anything from puppet shows and skits to onstage drawings to a whole wild variety of costumes—gangster’s moll, Lone Ranger, prom dress, superhero, and more. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★“Twelfth Night”: Brass Tacks Ensemble. August 17-19. James Ingagiola directs this local ensemble in a production of Shakespeare’s comedy that opened at the Riverside Arts Center in Ypsilanti last week (see 10 Thursday listing). 8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$12 (students, \$8). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

★“Honus & Me”: Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★“I Am My Own Wife”: Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★“The Catfight”: Improv Inferno. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Ty Barnett: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. August 17-19. Acclaimed young stand-up comic known for his smart, edgy, and very funny observations about contemporary society from an African American point of view. A frequent guest on late-night TV, he is also featured in the NBC reality show *Last Comic Standing*. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$17 reserved seating in advance, \$19 general admission at the door. 996-9080.

★“High Octane”: Improv Inferno. See 3 Thursday. 10 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Sundance Series. “To Sleep with Anger” (Charles Burnett, 1990). August 17 & 19. Horror movie about a distant relative who stops off for a spell and makes himself too much at home, until it becomes clear he’s not what he seems. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7:15 p.m. MTF. “The Devil and Daniel Johnston” (Jeff Feuerzeig, 2005). See 16 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. “Little Miss Sunshine” (Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris, 2006). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

18 FRIDAY

★“Playoga: For Big Souls and Little Bodies”: Ann Arbor District Library. Local yoga teacher Victoria Forman-Duranona leads a program of activities inspired by the kundalini school of yoga to channel the energy of kids ages 3-5 and to focus and relax their minds. 10-10:30 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School Rd. & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

★28th Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. August 18-20. More than 500,000 people usually visit this award-winning cultural heritage showcase of historical exhibits, tours, musical events, kids activities, and much more in Depot Town, in Riverside Park, and on historic North Huron Street. There are French & Indian, Revolutionary, Native American, and Civil War living history encampments, a chuck wagon, talks by African American Buffalo Soldiers reenactors, traditional craft demos, and open houses at several museums and historic buildings. Also, musical entertainment in Riverside Park, in Frog Island Park, and on Washington Street, a children’s village with a variety of activities for kids, various games and contests, a “millionaires” tent with casino games, bingo, raffles, an art fair, a carousel, and duck races. Lots of food and refreshments available. Today’s entertainment in Riverside Park: the Washtenaw Community Col-

lege Jazz Orchestra (12:15 & 1:15-2 p.m.), the local reggae and calypso band **Nite Flight** (5-6 p.m.), the local ska band **Hullabaloo** (6-7:30 p.m.), and the all-star ensemble **Detroit Women of R&B** (7:30-9 p.m.). Noon-midnight, **Depot Town/Riverside Park, Ypsilanti**. Free admission (nominal charge for some special events). Complete schedule available at ypsilantiheritagefestival.com and at the Ypsilanti Convention and Visitors Bureau, 301 W. Michigan Ave. For information, call 483-6071.

★**"Music in the Park": Herb David Guitar Studio.** See 1 Tuesday. Today: **Michael Gatti**. Noon-2 p.m.

★**"Dance Dance Revolution": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to compete in tournaments of this computer-guided movement game. Prizes. 6-9 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

★**Game Night: Memorial Christian Church.** All invited to bring a favorite board game or play one of the church's. Refreshments. Evening time TBA, Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. Free. 662-4245.

★**"Jamm'n' Michigan Avenue."** See 4 Friday. Tonight's performers TBA. 7-10 p.m.

★**"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown": Children's Creative Center.** See 16 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

Kelly Joe Phelps: The Ark. This talented blues singer from the Pacific Northwest with a rich, husky voice sings with an achingly beautiful melancholy that defines the emotional core of his music. He's also a virtuoso slide, 6-string, and 12-string guitarist. His repertoire includes folk blues by the likes of Mississippi Fred McDowell, along with several strong originals. A favorite with local audiences. 8 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at *Herb David Guitar Studio*, the *Michigan Union Ticket Office*, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"Aap ka Saroor": Palace Entertainment.** This extravaganza of Indian music features **Himesh Reshammiya**, a superstar Sufi rock heartthrob and Bollywood music video director known for his high, nasal voice and catchy songs. Reshammiya's concerts include material from his film scores and from his solo CD *Aap ka Saroor*, and his songs range from a tune incorporating a rural ghost incantation to a lyric comparing the latest versions of Java software. Other performers include Hindi singer **Alisha Chinai**, *Indian Idol* winner **Abhijeet Sawant**, *SaReGaMaPa* TV show winners **Vineet and Himani**, and other Bollywood musicians and dancers. 8 p.m., *Hill Auditorium*. Tickets \$35-\$75 in advance and (if available) at the door. (586) 506-0043.

★**"Twelfth Night": Brass Tacks Ensemble.** See 17 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"I Am My Own Wife": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Honus & Me": Purple Rose Theater Company.** See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★**Ty Barnett: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 17 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"Improv and Sketch Comedy": Improv Inferno.** See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., *Grotto Club*, 2070 W. Stadium. \$8 (PWP members, \$6). 973-1933.

★**"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno.** See 4 Friday. 10 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Who Killed the Electric Car?" (Chris Paine, 2006). August 18-24. Documentary about the birth and death of the electric car and the role of renewable energy and sustainable living in the future. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "Little Miss Sunshine" (Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris, 2006). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA. U-M Center for Japanese Studies. "Teens, Angst, and Rock 'n' Roll: Seishun Eiga, Then and Now." See 4 Friday. Today: *Fighting Elegy* (Seijun Suzuki, 1966), a political satire about an after-school fight club that one critic calls "an absurdist look at the forces that gave rise to fascism in 1930s Japan." Lorch Hall auditorium, 7 p.m.

19 SATURDAY

★**"Volunteer Stewardship Workday": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** See 5 Saturday. Today: help remove invasive buckthorn from the **Bluffs Nature Area**, a secluded prairie overlooking North Main Street, and/or help remove invasive shrubs from **Black Pond Woods**. 9 a.m.-noon, meet at the *Elks Pratt Lodge on Sunset Rd. at Wildt St.*, & 1-4 p.m., meet at *Leslie Science Center*, 1831 Traver Rd. Free. 996-3266.

★**28th Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival.** See 18 Friday. Today's special events include a parade (10 a.m.), chicken barbecue (11 a.m.-7 p.m.), an ugly car contest (1 p.m.), a garden tour (see listing below), Maple and Oak Street walking tours (1, 3, & 5 p.m.), a performance by the Michigan 5th Regiment Band (1 p.m.), Native American dance (1 & 2:30 p.m.) and square and contra dancing (7:30 p.m.-dusk). Today's entertainment in Riverside Park: the **Ypsilanti Community Band** (noon-1 p.m.), the **Ypsilanti Community Choir** (1-1:45 p.m.), African hand drumming and dance by the **Like Water Drum and Dance** troupe (2-3:30 p.m.), family-oriented acoustic music by **Gemini** (3:30-4:30 p.m.), rockabilly by the **Horse Cave Trio** (4:30-5:30 p.m.), vocal harmony by the **Old Friends Four** (5:30-6:15 p.m.), drumming by the **Ypsilanti High School drumline** (6:15-7 p.m.), and honky-tonk dance music in various styles by **George Bedard & the Kingpins** (7-9:30 p.m.). 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

★**"Country Fair": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day.** August 19 & 20. Displays about the science of agriculture include a farm animal petting zoo, displays by local agricultural organizations, and hands-on activities. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Aug. 19) & noon-5 p.m. (Aug. 20), *Hands-On Museum*, 219 E. Huron. \$7.50 (students & seniors, \$6) regular museum admission. 995-5439.

★**Annual Show: Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society.** August 19 & 20. Show and sale of over 200 exotic bromeliad houseplants, including some hybrids from a Hawaii breeder rarely seen in Michigan. These low-light, low-maintenance dinosaur-era "toughies" with stiff, often spiny, and colorful leaves are ideal for those with nongreen thumbs, since most varieties are nearly impossible to kill. Also, sale of air plants and bromeliad books and supplies, and demos by club members of how to care for bromeliads (noon, both days) and air plants (12:30 p.m., both days). 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., *U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens*, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 998-7061.

★**"Super Smash Double Dash Championship Series": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 6-12 invited to compete in the first of 6 monthly tournaments of **Mario Kart**, **Super Smash Brothers**, and a mystery video game TBA. Prizes. Pizza, snacks, & beverages. Noon-5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Pre-registration recommended. 327-8301.

★**"Music in the Park": Herb David Guitar Studio.** See 1 Tuesday. Today: **Vagrant Symphony**, a local pop-rock band. Noon-2 p.m.

★**"Cozies": Aunt Agatha's.** Panel discussion with 4 midwestern mystery writers—**Denise Swanson** of Illinois and Ohio residents **Sharon Short**, **Helen Webber**, and **Judy Clemens**—who specialize in this subgenre that features amateur sleuths, working in comfortably familiar, often domestic environments, who use their wits to solve crimes without much or any violence. The detectives are often women, and the stories usually include some element of romance. The discussion focuses on the panelists' own new books: Swanson's *Murder of a Real Bad Boy* features a high-school counselor in small-town Illinois, Short's *Hung Out to Die* a small-town laundress, Clemens's *To Thine Own Self Be True* a Harley-riding Pennsylvania dairy farmer, and Webber's *Digging Up Trouble* a woman who makes her living doing surprise garden makeovers. Signing. 1:30 p.m., *Aunt Agatha's*, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769-1114.

★**"Summer Splash Day": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** A family-oriented afternoon of pool games and contests. 2-4:30 p.m., *Buhr Park Pool*, 2751 Packard. \$5 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & older, \$4.50); \$1 discount for city residents. 971-3228.

Garden Tour: Ypsilanti Garden Club. Highlights of this self-guided walking tour of 6 Ypsilanti gardens include a Victorian garden, a "yin-yang" garden with both cactus and water features, and a 50-year-old garden with many heirloom plants. Rain date: August 27. 3-5:30 p.m., various locations. Tickets \$10 at *Bombadill's*, at *Mantis Garden Supply*, and at *Quinn's Essentials in Depot Town, Ypsilanti*. 483-6071.

★**Cribbage.** All invited to play this popular card game. Bring your own cribbage board and cards. 5-8 p.m., *Qdoba Mexican Grill*, 2252 S. Main. Free. 663-0475.

★**"Satisfaction Guaranteed," "Reality Incorporated," and "Dirt": Dreamland Theater.** See 5 Saturday. 7 p.m.

★**"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown": Children's Creative Center.** See 16 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to music by the *Pittsfield Open Band*. No partner needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat-soled shoes. 8 p.m., *Pittsfield Grange*, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$8; students, \$5. 426-0241.

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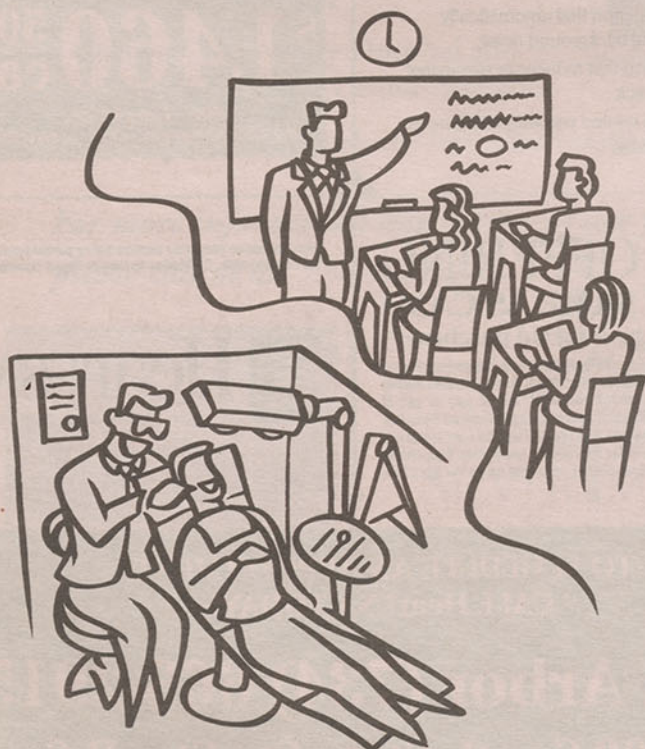
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19 SATURDAY continued

Bruce Robison: The Ark. Texas singer-songwriter whose rootsy alt-country songs are known for their heartfelt directness and good-natured playfulness. He's also written hit songs for other performers, including Tim McGraw's "Angry All the Time" and the Dixie Chicks' "Travelin' Soldier." 8 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Twelfth Night": Brass Tacks Ensemble. See 17 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"I Am My Own Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Honus & Me": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Ty Barnett: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 17 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Improv and Sketch Comedy": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

★Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers. A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear). Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1/4 miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332-9132.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. 10 p.m.

FILMS

MTF Sundance Series. "To Sleep with Anger" (Charles Burnett, 1990). See 17 Thursday. Mich., 4 p.m. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. **MTF. "Who Killed the Electric Car?"** (Chris Paine, 2006). See 18 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Little Miss Sunshine"** (Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris, 2006). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

20 SUNDAY

Ann Arbor Antiques Market. From its small Farmers' Market niche 30 years ago, this show has grown to national importance, with more than 350 antiques and collectibles dealers. It's the nation's largest monthly antiques show, and some say the best. No reproductions are allowed, experts check every booth, and the items' authenticity is guaranteed. This market is also an important source for dealers nationwide. Deliveries available; food for sale. No pets. Managed by Nancy and Woody Straub. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. \$6 (children 12 & under accompanied by an adult, free). Free parking. (352) 771-8928 (before the show), 429-3145 (day of show).

★"Silver Lake Swim Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Fast-paced 85-mile, moderate-paced 60-mile, and slow-paced 40-mile rides to Silver Lake for a swim. 9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 434-3097 (85-mile ride), 996-8316 (60-mile ride), 996-4985 (40-mile ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★28th Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. See 18 Friday. Special events today include a pancake breakfast (8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.), a historical worship service (10 a.m.) at St. Luke's, an 1849 chuck wagon (10 a.m.-6 p.m.), a vintage baseball game (1 p.m.), a children's talent contest (1 p.m.), a hot dog eating contest (3:30 p.m.), rubber duck races (3:30 & 5 p.m.), and a historic homes tour (see listing). Today's entertainment: fiddlin' by the *Saline Fiddlers* (1-1:45 p.m.), and folk music by guitarist *Jill Jack* (2-3:30 p.m.). 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

29th Annual Ypsilanti Historic Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. Self-guided tour of 6 properties in the city. Includes a splendid 1840s Gothic Revival; the 1904 Hutchinson House, one of the state's great mansions; a 1940s colonial; a 1922 colonial bungalow with eyebrow windows; a 1931 brick house in the French Norman Country style; and an about-to-open new restaurant and wine bar on the ground floor and lower level of the newly renovated 1879 former Kresge building on Michigan Avenue. Noon-5 p.m. Tickets \$8 in advance in Ann Arbor at Downtown Home & Garden, and in Ypsilanti at Quinn's Essentials in Depot Town and Norton-Durant Florists & Gifts. \$10 day of tour at the booth in front of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron. 483-5688.

★"Kids Kart": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades 1-5 invited to compete in a tournament playing the popular video game Mario Kart.

post-afrobeat

NOMO

Vampires, beware!

Vampires don't dance to the music of NOMO—the warm blood of the living courses not through their veins—but pretty much everyone else within, say, 100 feet of this A²-born-and-bred post-Afrobeat horn-heavy band will be getting quite seriously down.

I first saw NOMO last summer at one of the Art Fair stages. The namby-pamby little country act that preceded them seemed to sense the presence of greatness and scurried quickly off while the NOMO folk—and there were a lot of them—piled the plywood stage high with drums and mike stands and amps and whatnot. Then they took their places and blasted Church Street with sound.

This is fun party music. Fun party music with brains. Fun party music with brains and soul. And what more can you ask for at a party?

Now me, I don't get invited to a lot of fun parties, so one-half of my own day-to-day NOMO experience takes place in my car, where I have discovered that the key to long, lonely road trips is to attempt to learn to sing NOMO horn lines—and once that's done, to harmonize with them. It's hard, and I suppose I look dorky to the drivers who pass me by, but it eats up the miles. There's just nothing as rousing as a rock-solid horn section (there might be six horn players onstage at any given time), and NOMO's cool originals boast horn lines that are both complex and utterly accessible. Best of all, they're like puzzles.



You can figure them out. And balancing them is a sweet tumble of percussion (as many as four players onstage at any given time) on instruments as unexpected as an "electric saw blade gamelan"—all planted firmly in the fertile soil of African polyrhythms and American free jazz.

The national and international buzz on our own, homegrown NOMO is rather deafening these days. They're touring a ton on both sides of the Atlantic and getting glorious reviews from rags like *Playboy*, the *Chicago Reader*, and *Time Out* (in NYC). It's hard to say precisely who these people are; they're like a tribe of fifteen or so Detroit-area musicians—I'm not going to list all their names—who come together in various combinations

for gigs and recording. Saxophonist Elliot Bergman leads with a light touch. The result is a tight-knit, disciplined sound that feels free and spontaneous. NOMO's sophomore release is called *New Tones*, and it's a thin, simply packaged little number with cool cover art, stuffed with sound.

The other half of my own day-to-day NOMO experience takes place in my kitchen, where I blast *New Tones* and dance around maniacally on the green-and-white-checked linoleum I picked out myself yet somehow slightly regret. NOMO makes me dance, sweat, and run into the dog dish. For I am no vampire.

NOMO is at the Ark Saturday, August 12.
—Whit Hill

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1-4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

Ice Cream Social: King of Kings Lutheran Church. All invited for ice cream, hot dogs, and chips. Also, carnival games, including sack races, a duck pond, and football and beanbag tosses. 3-5:30 p.m., King of Kings, 2685 Packard. Freewill offering. 971-1417.

"Honus & Me": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"I Am My Own Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

Robbie Fuls: The Ark. Talented Chicago-based alt-country singer-songwriter whose music is an off-beat yet affecting blend of traditional country, early rock 'n' roll, and new wave 80s pop. The songs on his acclaimed new CD *Georgia Hard* range from the country-politican soul of "Leave It to a Loser" and the honky-tonk drive of "Each Time I Cry" to a couple of taut, dark murder ballads, "Coldwater, Tennessee" and "If They Could Only See Me Now." 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Get Up Stand Up": Improv Inferno. See 6 Sunday. 8:30 p.m.

"Pin Up and Pose": Performance Network. The Performance Network celebrates its 25th anniversary with a soiree featuring a fashion show interspersed with performances by Performance Network executive director Carla Milarch as Mae West and speakeasy-style burlesque dances choreographed by Tawna Dabney. Dancers are Dabney, Aphrodite Nikolovski, and Chelsea Sadler. Fashions from Voila, V2V, Bivouac, and Adorn Me. Retro hair designs by Stephanie Buczek of Anneke's Downtown. Produced by Ralph Hoy. The show is followed at 10 p.m. by dancing to music played by DJs. Giveaways of gift bags from local boutiques. 9 p.m.-midnight, Cavern Club, 210 S. First. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 663-0681.

"The Sweet Spot with Eye Candy": Improv Inferno. See 6 Sunday. 10 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Summer Classic Film Series. "Sunset Boulevard" (Billy Wilder, 1950). August 20 & 22. When a down-on-his-luck screenwriter meets a faded movie star, their relationship spirals into madness. William Holden, Gloria Swanson. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michi-

gan Theater, 3 p.m. MTF. "Who Killed the Electric Car?" (Chris Paine, 2006). See 18 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "Little Miss Sunshine" (Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, 2006). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

21 MONDAY

★Carillon Concerts: U-M School of Music. See 7 Monday. Today: Dutch carillonneur Gideon Bodden performs music TBA. Visitors can tour the tower after the concert. 7 p.m., Burton Tower. Free. 764-0594.

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. See 7 Monday. Today: U-M music student Thomas Kean. 7 p.m.

★"By the Seat of Their Pants: The Early Years of the Airmail Service": Ann Arbor Stamp Club. A club member TBA presents this American Philatelic Society slide show about the spectacularly dangerous work of a tiny band of daring pilots in the early days of airmail. 7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at the rear of the building). Free admission. 761-5859.

Little Feat: The Ark. Legendary 70s southern-rock band from L.A. known for its artful melding of blues, R&B, country, and rock 'n' roll sensibilities. Disbanded after the departure of the late Lowell George in 1979, the band was re-formed in 1988 by several original members, including guitarist Paul Barrere, keyboardist Bill Payne, drummer Richie Hayward, bassist Kenny Gradney, and percussionist Sam Clayton. The current lineup also includes guitarist and trumpeter Fred Tackett and percussionist Shaun Murphy. The band recently released a live CD. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$36 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

FILMS

MTF. "Who Killed the Electric Car?" (Chris Paine, 2006). See 18 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "Little Miss Sunshine" (Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris, 2006). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

22 TUESDAY

Chelsea Community Fair: Chelsea Fairgrounds. August 22-26. Fair rides (5-11 p.m. today & 1-11 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday), entertainment by Colors the Clown (5-8 p.m. today & 3-7 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday), livestock shows, truck and tractor pulls,

and demolition derbies. Today's special events: kiddie parade, tricycle pull, and other children's activities (5:30 p.m.) and a demolition derby (7:30 p.m.). Also, rabbit (10 a.m.), poultry (11 a.m.), and sheep (7 p.m.) shows. 8 a.m.-11 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, Old US-12 at Manchester (off Old US-12 north from I-94 exit 159), Chelsea. \$5 (children 10 & under, free) per day; \$15 (seniors, \$10) for a 5-day pass. 475-8153 before fair; 475-1270 during fair week.

"Heirloom Tomato Harvest Dinner": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young hosts a dinner showcasing the nearly 2 dozen varieties of heirloom tomatoes from his own garden. 7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. \$39 (\$58 includes wine). Reservations required. 663-FOOD.

★"The Bowfin: One of Michigan's Most Primitive Fishes": U-M Aquarium Society. Club members give short picture- and video-illustrated talks on this bizarre, pugnacious living fossil that can live out of water and chew off a fisherman's arm. 7 p.m., 2009 U-M Ruthven Natural History Museum (enter at the loading dock), 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 274-1722.

Dinner Dance: Tuesday Night Dancers. Ballroom dancing to live music by the Mike Wolverton Band. Includes fox-trots, waltzes, Latin and swing dancing, and more. Singles and couples welcome. Preceded at 7 p.m. by dinner. No jeans. 8-10:45 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. \$17 in advance only. (517) 787-6367, (517) 592-5771.

"Dungeons and Dragons Comedy Improv": Dreamland Theater. See 1 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF Summer Classic Film Series. "Sunset Boulevard" (Billy Wilder, 1950). See 20 Sunday. Mich., 7 p.m. MTF. "Who Killed the Electric Car?" (Chris Paine, 2006). See 18 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "Little Miss Sunshine" (Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris, 2006). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

23 WEDNESDAY

Chelsea Community Fair: Chelsea Fairgrounds. See 22 Tuesday. Today: goat (9 a.m.), beef cattle (11 a.m.), and swine (6 p.m.) shows, and a demolition derby (7:30 p.m.). 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Chelsea.

★Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club. All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys. Legos Mindstorms robots and radio-controlled cars



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23 WEDNESDAY continued

available for kids entertainment. 7 p.m., *Corsa Instruments*, 2370 Abbott (off Jackson behind KFC). Free. 332-1000.

★**"The 1970s Feminist Art Movement"**: Ann Arbor District Library. Panel discussion with area artists Brenda Oelbaum, Leslie Sobel, and Margaret Parker, along with Christy Bengen, curator of the *Celebrating Women Artists* banners on display around the downtown this month. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

Millish: The Ark. Local quartet that plays a brand of Irish-worldbeat fusion that explores the links between traditional Irish music and roots music from Scotland and Brittany, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Spain, and America. Led by All-Ireland champion uilleann piper Tyler Duncan, whose composition "The Mighty Pickle" won 1st place in the open category of the 2005 International Acoustic Music Awards, the band also includes guitarist Jesse Mason, fiddler and mandolinist Brad Phillips, and percussionist Mike Shimmin. 8 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"Honus & Me"**: Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday, 3 & 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. **"Who Killed the Electric Car?"** (Chris Paine, 2006). See 18 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Little Miss Sunshine"** (Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris, 2006). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

24 THURSDAY

Chelsea Community Fair: Chelsea Fairgrounds. See 22 Tuesday. Today: kiddie tractor pull (2 p.m.) and figure-8 demolition derby (7:30 p.m.). Also, dairy cattle (10 a.m.) and draft horse halter (4 p.m.) shows and a livestock auction (7 p.m.). 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Chelsea.

★**"Readings and Ruminations"**: Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled. U-M grad student Mary-Katherine Harrison gives a reading of 19th-century poetry and prose TBA. Refreshments. 1-2:30 p.m., Washtenaw County Library, County Service Center, 4135 Washtenaw at Hogback. Free. 971-6059.

★**"Community Tent"**: Ann Arbor Alive. See 3 Thursday. Today: storyteller Randy Thomas and the local roots music band Blacktrain. 3-7 p.m.

★**"Trunk-a-Palooza"**: Kerrytown Market. Monthly garage sale with folks selling items from the trunks of their cars. Live music TBA. Food available. 5-8 p.m., *Farmers' Market*, between Fourth Ave. and Detroit St. Free (vendor fee, \$20). 994-3276.

★**"Sounds and Sights on Thursday Nights"**: Chelsea Center for the Arts & Chelsea Retail Advisory Council. See 3 Thursday. Tonight: bluegrass by *On the Fence*, close-harmony folk and pop by the female vocal trio *All about Eve*, jazz by the Sharyl Bura Trio, fiddle music by *Fiddlers Anonymous* and the Millcreek Ramblers, vocalist Paul Taylor, contemporary folk by the *Bob Skon Trio*, electric blues by *Bull Halsey*, and rock 'n' roll by *Storm Front*. Also, magician Michael McGivern. 6-8 p.m.

★**"Tantre Farm Summer Feast"**: Zingerman's Delicatessen. Tantre Farm (Chelsea) owner Richard Andres and Zingerman's Deli chef Rodger Bowser host an all-you-can-eat family-style dinner featuring Tantre Farm organic produce. 7-9 p.m., *Zingerman's Big Top Tent*, 422 Detroit St. \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door. 663-3400.

★**"How to Talk to Plants and Avoid Giving the Impression of Lunacy"**: People's Food Co-op Herbal Wisdom Series. Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. 7-8:30 p.m., *Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room*, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994-4589.

★**"Transform Your T-Shirt"**: Ann Arbor District Library. Ann Arbor Commission on Art in Public Places chair Margaret Parker shows how to turn a T-shirt into a work of wearable art. Bring a T-shirt or two. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School Rd. & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

Freebo & Photoglo: The Ark. Blues-inflected country-pop by the duo of these 2 veteran musicians, bassist Freebo and songwriter and guitarist Jim Photoglo, the founder of the hilarious parody group Run C&W. 8 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"I Am My Own Wife"**: Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"Honus & Me"**: Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

★**"Comedy Jamm"**: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"The Catfight"**: Improv Inferno. See 3 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★**"High Octane"**: Improv Inferno. See 3 Thursday, 10 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Sundance Series. **"Paris Is Burning"** (Jennie Livingston, 1990). August 24 & 26. Acclaimed documentary about New York City drag balls at which gay and Latino men don flamboyant "vogue-ing" disguises. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7:15 p.m. MTF. **"Who Killed the Electric Car?"** (Chris Paine, 2006). See 18 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Little Miss Sunshine"** (Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris, 2006). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

25 FRIDAY

★**"Dressage at Waterloo"**: Waterloo Hunt Club. See 10 Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Chelsea Community Fair: Chelsea Fairgrounds. See 22 Tuesday. Today: family-oriented musical entertainment TBA (6:30 & 8 p.m.) and a tractor pull (9 a.m.); chain saw wood carving shows throughout the day. Also, a draft horse hitch show (6 p.m.). 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Chelsea.

★**"Music in the Park"**: Herb David Guitar Studio. See 1 Tuesday. Today: Stephanie Sings. Noon-2 p.m.

★**"3rd Annual Connections Festival"**: The Attic Theater. August 25-27. Three days of music, storytelling, and dance celebrating the last days of summer. Also, kids activities and information booths featuring local artists and arts organizations. A wide range of grilled foods, snacks, and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase. Today's "Blues & Jazz" program is headlined by **Mark Randisi** (8:30-9:45 p.m.), a Detroit jazz crooner who performs songs associated with Frank Sinatra, singing with a timbre and phrasing remarkably similar to that of Sinatra himself. He is backed tonight by a jazz trio. Also, an ensemble of jazz students from the **Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts** (6-7 p.m.) and the **Herb David Guitar Studio Ensemble** (7:15-8:15 p.m.). 6-10 p.m., *Riverside Park*, 1050 Wall St. (behind the Kellogg Eye Center). Tickets \$8 on Aug. 25, \$15 on Aug. 26, \$10 (kids, \$5; families, \$25) on Aug. 27, & \$25 festival pass available in advance and at the gate. 327-0019.

★**"Jamm'n' Michigan Avenue"**. See 4 Friday. Tonight's performers: **Jo Serrapere & the Willie Dunns**, a local blues-flavored folk-rock band fronted by Serrapere, a classy local singer-songwriter known for her spare, haunting ballads and blues and her sinewy, commanding vocals. Also, another act TBA. 7-10 p.m.

★**"Yoga Trance Dance"**: Sun Moon Yoga Studio. Michael Gibson-Faith leads a session of easy, fluid moves combining elements of yoga and dance. 7-9 p.m., *Sun Moon Studio*, 4004 W. Huron. Donation. 929-0274.

★**U-M Men's Soccer vs. St. John's (New York)**. 7:30 p.m., U-M Soccer Field, S. State at Hoover. Free. 763-2159.

36th Annual Saline Pro Rodeo: J Bar J Ranch. August 25-27. Old-time rodeo thrills and pageantry, produced by the award-winning J Bar J Rodeo Ranch of Clare, Michigan. Sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, it features professional rodeo clowns and performances by some of the best cowboys and cowgirls in North America, including many world champions. Everything from bareback, bronc, and bull riding to calf roping, steer wrestling, and barrel racing. 8 p.m., *Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds*, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline. Tickets \$10 (kids 10 & younger, \$6) in advance, \$15 (kids 10 & younger, \$10) at the gate. Aug. 25: all tickets \$10 in advance and at the gate. (517) 386-3149.

★**"Dreamland Cabaret"**: Dreamland Theater. Vignettes from the Dreamland puppet troupe, a game show with audience participation, and music TBA by local musicians Connie McKinney and Tommy Spaghetti, and by the Dreamland Magic Band. 8 p.m., *Dreamland Theater*, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. \$5. 657-2337.

Stew Cutler Trio: Kerrytown Concert House. This acclaimed New York jazz guitarist, a former member of the sextet The President, is known for a style that blends elements of R&B, avant-garde, and noise. He plays tonight with bassist Gene Torres and drummer Garry Bruer. 8 p.m., *KCH*, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10, \$15, & \$25 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

★**Suzy Bogguss: The Ark**. One of the most popular and critically respected country singers of the past 15 years, Bogguss is known for her strong, clear, expres-

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sive contralto voice and her eclectic taste in material, which ranges from enjoyable pop-country fluff to challenging material by top contemporary songwriters. She had her biggest hit in 1994 with John Hiatt's "Drive South," and she has recorded songs by the likes of Cheryl Wheeler, Julie Miller, and Matraca Berg, with whom she wrote "Somebody to Love." Her current concert showcase material from her 2003 CD *Swing*, a collection of elegant, western swing-flavored renditions of jazz standards and contemporary jazz songs, and tonight she's also expected to play some songs from a new CD due out this fall. 8 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$25 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Honus & Me": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"I Am My Own Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Mark Sweeney: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. August 25 & 26. This Chicago native is a very funny monologist known for his fresh, sharp observational humor about various aspects of contemporary life and culture. A frequent performer on cable TV, he has also made guest appearances in several network shows, including *Third Rock from the Sun* and *Boston Public*. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$8 reserved seating in advance, \$10 general admission at the door. 996-9080.

"Improv and Sketch Comedy": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

Dynamic Tension. August 25 & 26. This local theater troupe screens classic movies and performs a costumed live stage production of the film on a stage in front of the screen, echoing the dialogue and actions of the actors. Tonight: *The Wizard of Oz* (8:30 p.m.), Victor Fleming's 1939 adaptation of L. Frank Baum's popular fantasy about a Kansas girl who travels to the Emerald City. Followed by *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (11 p.m.), Dick Shorman's cult classic musical about a fresh-scrubbed pair who find themselves the guests of a transsexual transvestite Transylvanian. Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon, Meatloaf. 8:30 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. \$7 (both movies, \$10). 480-2787.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. 10 p.m.

"The X Show": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. Midnight.

FILMS

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. "Amelie" (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001). Charming tale of a Parisian waitress determined to improve the lives of those around her, including a despotic grocer, a kindly stripper, and a hypochondriacal tobacconist. Popcorn. FREE. 994-3387. **Michigan Theater Foundation.** Films TBA. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

26 SATURDAY

***Duelist IX: Ann Arbor Dueling Society.** All invited to watch local and area fencers compete in a single-elimination coed fencing tournament for foil (8 a.m.), saber (11:30 a.m.), and epee (1 p.m.). The best time to watch is the last hour or so (the finals) of each weapon period. Epee is easiest for a nonfencer to understand, but saber is more exciting. 8 a.m.-3 p.m., YMCA, 400 W. Washington. Free (\$15 to compete). 996-9622.

Chelsea Community Fair: Chelsea Fairgrounds. See 22 Tuesday. Today: youth horse show (8 a.m.), compact tractor show (9 a.m.), fair parade (1 p.m.), fair queen contest (7 p.m.), and truck pull (7:30 p.m.). 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Chelsea.

***Ecosystem Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Tools provided, or bring your own. 9 a.m.-noon, U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 998-9540.

***"Prairie Walk": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens/Nichols Arboretum.** All invited to explore the prairies at each site. 10 a.m.-noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., & 2-4 p.m., Arboretum location TBA. Free. 998-9540.

***"Volunteer Stewardship Workday": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** See 5 Saturday. Today: help remove invasive shrubs from and maintain the trails at **Sunset Brooks Nature Area**, and/or help remove invasive shrubs from **Furstenberg Nature Area**. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., meet at the Sunset Brooks Nature Area entrance on Sunset at Brooks, & 1-4 p.m., meet at Furstenberg Nature Area Fuller Rd. entrance, across from Huron High School. Free. 996-3266.

33rd Annual Bonsai Show: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. August 26 & 27. Display of over 100 elegant bonsai specimens, in a variety of styles, grown by club members. Also, bonsai demos (times TBA). Sale of plants, supplies, tools, pots, and books by members and guest vendors. Rain or shine. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Admission \$6 (teens, \$2). 998-7061.

"Wolver(Z)ine & DIY Fest." Display, exchange, and sale of a variety of alternative media including zines, newspapers, magazines, comics, blogs, and more, including *FOUND* magazine, My Gift Card Co., Hand-made Detroit, *Flea Beetle*, the *Anti-Smoking Zine*, and more. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free (exhibitors, \$10). www.wolverzine.info.

"3rd Annual Connections Festival": The Attic Theater. See 25 Friday. Today's "One World Tribe Party" is headlined by **Benny Cruz y La Buena Vida** (8:15-9:45 p.m.), an award-winning Detroit ensemble that performs bachata, merengue, and other forms of spicy Latin dance music. Kid-oriented entertainment includes storytelling and songs by the local duo of folk singer **Laz Slomovits** and drummer **Lori Fithian** (11-11:45 a.m.), and **"Dancing Across the Map"** (noon-12:45 p.m.), a participatory workshop on movement from around the world presented by the local modern dance troupe **People Dancing**. Also, a family-oriented program of African folktales by veteran local storyteller **LaRon Williams** (1-4:45 p.m.). Senegalese-born, Malian-trained singer and kora player **Mady Kouyate** (2-3 p.m.) leads his Ann Arbor-based ensemble **Heat of Africa** in West African music and dance, and local classical Indian dancer **Madhavi Mai** (3:35-4:15 p.m.) leads her young and adult student dancers in a recital of classical and contemporary Bharatanatyam dance. The Chelsea-based ensemble **Like Water Drumworks** (4:30-5:30 p.m.) showcases African drumming styles, and the veteran local dance band **Nite Flight** (7-8 p.m.) performs reggae, calypso, and steel drum music. Also, another act TBA (5:45-6:45 p.m.). 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

***"Music in the Park": Herb David Guitar Studio.** See 1 Tuesday. Today: **The Dellwoods**, a band that plays American roots music. Noon-2 p.m.

German Park Picnic. Old-fashioned German dinner served a la carte (approximately \$5-\$7) with wine, beer, pop, and coffee for sale. Dancing to German and American music by **Enzian**. 4-11 p.m., German Park, 5548 Pontiac Trail (7 miles north of Ann Arbor; look for the banners and signs marking the entrance). \$5 (children 12 & under, free). No one under 21 admitted without parent or legal guardian. 769-0048 (weekdays).

***Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to discuss *A Seahorse Year*, Stacey D'Erasmus's novel about a San Francisco family dealing with their son's mental illness. 4:30-6:30 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 663-0036.

***"Reveling on the River": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** Performance by the **Community High School Jazz Band**. Bring a blanket and a picnic for a relaxing evening on the banks of the Huron River. 7-8:30 p.m., Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 662-9319.

***"Come Out and Play": Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project.** All invited to bring a favorite card or board game to play. 7:30 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 995-9867.

"Italia a Espana": Kerrytown Concert House. Local classical guitarist Matthew Ardizzone performs works by Rossini, virtuoso guitarist-composer Mauro Giuliani, Albeniz's melancholy *Mallorca*, and a set of flamenco-influenced songs by Federico Torroba and Joaquin Turina. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10, \$15, & \$25 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

36th Annual Saline Pro Rodeo: J Bar J Ranch. See 25 Friday. 8 p.m.


Billy Joe Shaver: The Ark. Honky-tonk band led by this veteran Texas singer-songwriter, one of the lesser known—but arguably the most gifted—of the country music "outlaws" who emerged with Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings in the mid-70s. Shaver's singing is distinguished by its quiet emotional power and unaffected grit, and his songs, keenly observed and sharply delineated, move easily between homely directness and an authentically spiritual intensity. In recent years his songs, including many of those on his new CD *The Real Deal*, are suffused with an elegiac spirituality, at once gritty, gruff, and resiliently sweet-tempered. 8 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at *Borders on Liberty*, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Honus & Me": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. Closing night. 3 & 8 p.m.

"I Am My Own Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Improv and Sketch Comedy": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

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26 SATURDAY continued

Dynamic Tension. See 25 Friday. Preceded at 5 p.m. by a kids matinee performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. 8:30 p.m.

International Folk Dancing. Folk dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Preceded by lessons in complicated (7 p.m.) and easy (8 p.m.) dances. 9-11 p.m., *Gretchen's House*, 1580 Dhu Varren. Donation \$3-\$5 (students, \$1). 995-0011.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. 10 p.m.

"The X Show": Improv Inferno. See 4 Friday. Midnight.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

27 SUNDAY

***Jackson Parlor & Muster Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Moderate- and fast-paced 100-mile rides over scenic roads to Jackson to visit the Parlor (formerly the All-Star Dairy), one of the most popular ice cream parlors in southeastern Michigan. Followed by a ride through the Civil War Muster in Cascades Park. Also, at 10 a.m., a 40-mile ride to the same destination leaves from the Grass Lake Depot on Michigan Ave. 8 a.m. (moderate pace) & 9 a.m. (fast pace), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. (734) 674-3481 (moderate-paced ride), (734) 453-3481 (fast-paced ride), 665-4968 (40-mile ride), 913-9851 (general information).

***"Wildflowers of the Prairie": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to examine wildflowers. 10 a.m.-noon, Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free (\$4 per vehicle park entry fee). 971-6337.

"3rd Annual Connections Festival": The Attic Theater. See 25 Friday. Today's "Friends and Folks Festival" is headlined by **Gandalf Murphy & the Slambobian Circus of Dreams** (7:30-9 p.m.), a very popular folk-rock quartet from the Hudson Valley whose music one fan described as sounding "as if David Bowie recorded *Hunky Dory* with the Band in the basement of Big Pink." Led by the husband-and-wife duo of singer-songwriter and guitarist Joziha Longo and his wife, cellist and accordionist Tink Lloyd, the band also includes lead guitarist Sharkey McEwen and drummer Tony Zuzulo. Today's programming begins with **"Songs of the North Country"** (12:30-1:45 p.m.), a performance of the music of local singer-songwriter Jay Stielstra by **David Menefee**, **Cheryl Dawdy**, and other members of the cast of Stielstra's oft-revived country-folk musical, *North Country Opera*. Also, the versatile local Americana band **Wanderin' Wheel** (2-2:45 p.m.), local folk-rock singer-songwriter **Dave Boutette** (3-3:45 p.m.), the Manchester-based old-timey string band **The Raisin Pickers** (4-4:45 p.m.), a quartet of area singer-songwriters—**Drew Nelson**, **Jill Jack**, **Lisa Pappas**, and **Luke Sayers**—in a song swap (5-6:15 p.m.), and the popular local country-folk singer-songwriter **Chris Buhalis** (7:30-9 p.m.). 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

***Annual Picnic: Beth Israel.** All invited to a picnic of kosher foods provided by Beth Israel. Also, the clown **Twist and Shout**. Canoes available for rental. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Gallup Park picnic shelter (enter west of Huron Pkwy., cross the wooden bridge, and go down the driveway to the rear parking lot). Free. 663-5543.

Annual Corn Roast and Membership Drive: Ann Arbor Ski Club. Newcomers and old members invited to this membership drive event kicking off the club's season of meetings and outings. Corn, beverages, and preheated grills provided. Bring your own goodies to grill, and a dish to pass. Volleyball and live music TBA. Persons under 21 must be accompanied by an adult. 2-7 p.m., *Knights of Columbus picnic grounds*, 3991 Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd. \$5 admission. 428-8093.

***"Black Belt Celebration": Ann Arbor Quest Martial Arts.** Martial arts demonstrations by beginning to advanced martial arts students. 2-5 p.m., *Quest Martial Arts*, 2111 Packard. Free. 332-1800.

"I Am My Own Wife": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

***"Hewenes Creek Hike": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** All invited to hike this natural area featuring old farm fields reverting to wilderness. Bring bug spray and sunscreen. 2 p.m., meet at northwest corner of Child's Elementary School parking lot, 7300 Bemis (east off Platt Rd. between Textile & Willis Rds.), Ypsilanti. Free. 426-5737.

***U-M Men's Soccer vs. Coastal Carolina.** 2:30 p.m., U-M Soccer Field, S. State at Hoover. Free. 763-2159.

***"The Servant of Two Masters": The 5-6-7-8 Summer Players.** Billie Ochberg directs local young

actors in Paul Nolan's adaptation of Carlo Goldoni's 18th-century Italian comedy about a wily servant who gets the best of his masters, by hook or by crook. 3 p.m., *Nicola's*, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-0600.

***"Paved Country Roads Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Fast-, moderate-, and slow-paced rides, 18-30 miles, past farmland and lakes west of town. 4 p.m., meet at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2075 Strieter Rd. at Scio Church Rd. (1 mile east of Parker Rd.). Free. 662-0205 (today's ride), 994-0044 (general information).

***Society for Women Engineers Book Club: Liberty Borders.** All invited to join a discussion of *In the Time of the Butterflies*, Julia Alvarez's novel, set in the Dominican Republic during the rise of Trujillo, about 3 sisters murdered for their part in a plot to overthrow the government. 6-8 p.m., *Borders cafe*, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

36th Annual Saline Pro Rodeo: J Bar J Ranch. See 25 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Get Up Stand Up": Improv Inferno. See 6 Sunday. 8:30 p.m.

"The Sweet Spot with Eye Candy": Improv Inferno. See 6 Sunday. 10 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Russian Dolls" (Cedric Klapisch, 2005). August 27-31. Romantic comedy about a frustrated fiction writer. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. MTF Summer Classic Film Series. **"A Day at the Races"** (Sam Wood, 1937). August 27 & 29. The Marx Brothers enter a horse in a steeplechase to win enough money to save from financial ruin a sanitarium where Groucho, a horse doctor illicitly employed as the director, has his eyes on one of the patients, a wealthy hypochondriac. Mich., 3 p.m.

28 MONDAY

***"Prints and Cameras": Ann Arbor Black-and-White Photography Co-op.** All invited to join a group discussion. Also, new member orientation. 6 p.m., location TBA. Free. 846-4492.

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. See 7 Monday. Today: U-M organ grad student and local piano teacher **Susan Alden**. 7 p.m.

Chris Knight: The Ark. Fast-rising country-rock singer-songwriter from Kentucky whose fans include Willie Nelson. Often compared to Steve Earle or Townes Van Zandt, Knight writes laconic, cinematically vivid storysongs, usually about dark characters or shadowy emotions. "Knight keeps true to his Kentucky roots by weaving urban tales from the dark side," says *Nashville* *Rage* critic Angie Glover in her review of his new CD, *The Jealous Kind*. 7:30 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at *Herb David Guitar Studio*, the *Michigan Union Ticket Office*, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

FILMS

MTF. **"Russian Dolls"** (Cedric Klapisch, 2005). See 27 Sunday. Mich., times TBA.

29 TUESDAY

***Forge Mountain Diggers: The Ark "Take a Chance Tuesdays."** Old-time string-band music performed with rapt, gleeful abandon by this young trio from Bryson City, North Carolina. Members are fiddler David Bass, guitarist and mandolinist Thomas Bailey, and banjoist Allison Williams. Part of a monthly series of free concerts featuring lesser-known artists on the roster of the prestigious local management agency Fleming & Associates. All encouraged to bring nonperishable food or money to donate to Food Gatherers. 8 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Free. 761-1451.

"Dungeons and Dragons Comedy Improv": Dreamland Theater. See 1 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF Summer Classic Film Series. **"A Day at the Races"** (Sam Wood, 1937). See 27 Sunday. Mich., 7 p.m. MTF. **"Russian Dolls"** (Cedric Klapisch, 2005). See 27 Sunday. Mich., times TBA.

30 WEDNESDAY

"The Art of the Martini": Eve Restaurant. All invited to sample a variety of martinis and nibble bar food as a speaker TBA discusses the history of the martini. Also, you can compete in a contest to make the best martini. The winning recipe will be added to Eve's official drink menu. Call ahead to request special ingredients for your recipe. 7 p.m., *Eve*, Kerrytown. \$50. Preregistration required. 222-0711.

"Italian Olive Oils and Vinegars": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staffer Solomon James

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discusses and offers taste samples of a variety of Italian olive oils and vinegars from Liguria to Sicily. 7-9 p.m., Zingerman's, 422 Detroit St. \$20. Reservations required. 663-3400.

"How to Solve Our Human Problems: The Four Noble Truths": Vajrayana Buddhist Center. Every Wednesday beginning August 30. Talks by Buddhist monk Gen Kelsang Khedrub, the resident teacher of the Vajrayana Buddhist Center in Chicago. The weekly program also includes a guided meditation and discussion. Tonight's topic: **"An Introduction to Meditation."** 7-8:30 p.m., 116 E. Washington, suite 220. \$10 suggested donation. (248) 444-4633.

"Short Films and the Michigan Theater Sundance Film Series": Ann Arbor District Library. Local filmmaker Keith Jefferies discusses the program of short films to be shown at the Michigan Theater later this week (see 31 Thursday listing). 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

"The Gin Game": Redbud Productions. Lenore Ferber directs local actors in a staged reading of DL Coburn's Pulitzer Prize-winning play. When a nursing home newcomer and a crotchety resident testily square off over a game of gin, their difficult personalities emerge layer by layer, along with the unhappy histories that led them into this dead end. Cast: Larry Rusinsky, Erica Dutton. 8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10 in advance and at the door. 769-2999.

FILMS

MTF. **"Russian Dolls"** (Cedric Klapisch, 2005). See 27 Sunday. Mich., times TBA.

31 THURSDAY

"Cooking with Soy and Soy Products": Whole Foods Market. Talk by a Whole Foods staff member TBA. 1-2 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975-4500.

"Community Tent": Ann Arbor Alive. See 3 Thursday. Today: David Rossiter, a local roots-music singer-songwriter who is the front man of the alt-country band Hoodang. 3-7 p.m.

"Sounds and Sights on Thursday Nights": Chelsea Center for the Arts & Chelsea Retail Advisory Council. See 3 Thursday. Tonight: folk songs and folk-style originals by Matt Watroba, Gypsy jazz by the Royal Garden Trio, folk music by Blacktrain, fiddle music by Fiddlers Anonymous and the Martin-Burgess Duo, contemporary folk by the Bob Skon Trio, rock by the Pedestrians, blues by Marrin-Metz-Whitman, accordion tunes by Songs You Remember, and show tunes by vocalist Jessica Oberholtzer. Also, magician Michael McGivern, fire eater Michigan Crazy, body painting by Express Yourself Body Art, and kids entertainment by Balloon Emporium. 6-8 p.m.

"Chocolate Tasting": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Plantations Chocolate founder Pierrick Chouard discusses and offers taste samples of a variety of his chocolates, made from a vintage strain of cacao found only in Ecuador and grown in partnership with the Rainforest Alliance. 7-9 p.m., Zingerman's Big Top Tent, 422 Detroit St. \$30. Reservations required. 663-3400.

Ann Arbor Socrates Cafe. All invited to join a philosophical discussion of the nature of the self and the world that draws on the Socratic method of questioning underlying assumptions. The local Socrates Cafe is affiliated with the Society for Philosophical Inquiry, founded by Christopher Phillips, author of *Six Questions of Socrates*. 7-8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Freespace (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 668-6583.

Respect Sextet: Kerrytown Concert House. This New York-based ensemble plays free jazz that a *PopMatters* reviewer calls "a quizzical maelstrom" featuring "liquid parts dribbling in from all sides, colors being added like you're clicking around in Photoshopper, shells slowly being defined." Performers are reedman Josh Rutner, trumpeter Eli Asher, trombonist James Hirschfeld, bassist Malcolm Kirby, drummer Ted Poor, and pianist and accordionist Red Wierenga. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10. Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

"The Catfight": Improv Inferno. See 3 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"High Octane": Improv Inferno. See 3 Thursday, 10 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Sundance Series. **"Six Short Films"** (various directors and years). August 31 & September 2. Six shorts originally shown at different Sundance festivals. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7:15 p.m. MTF. **"Russian Dolls"** (Cedric Klapisch, 2005). See 27 Sunday. Mich., times TBA.

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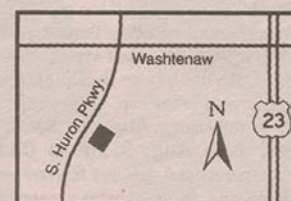


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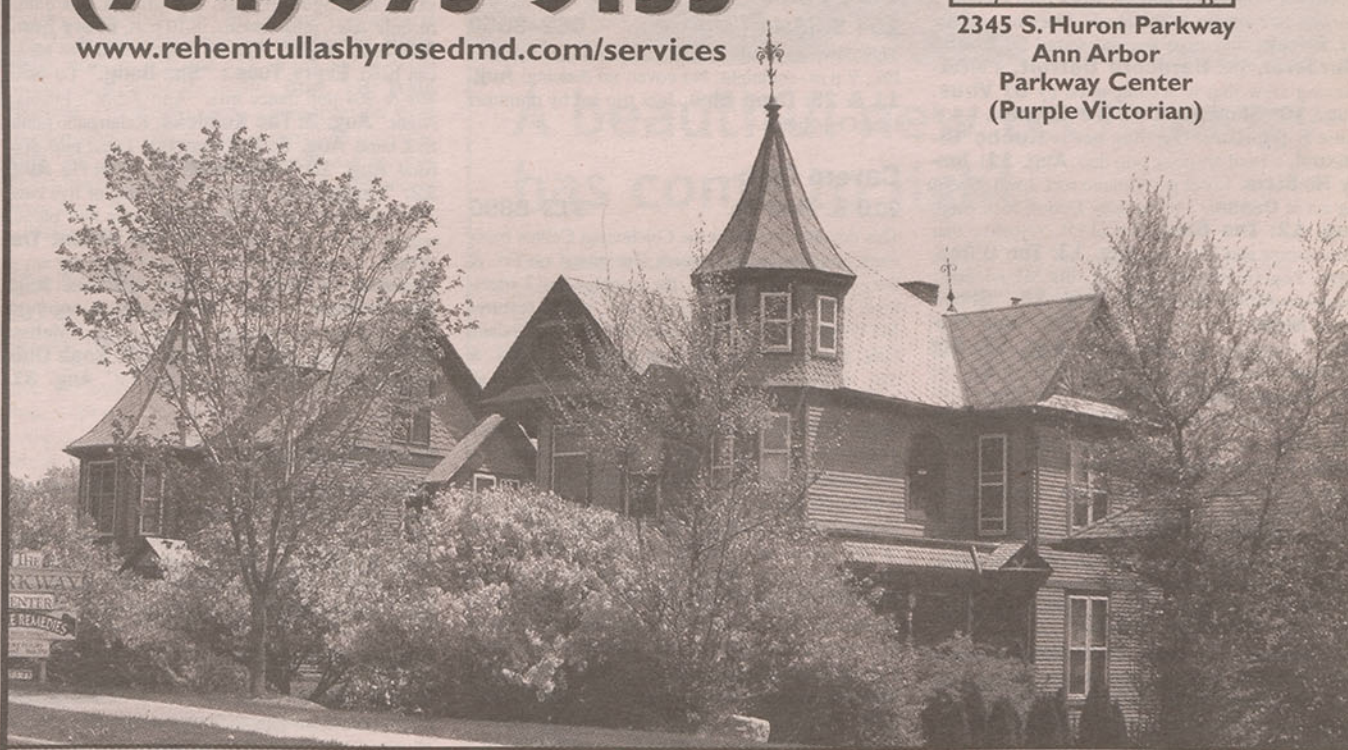
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Evening Appointments Available

Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who's playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

The Ark

316 S. Main 761-1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Ark shows are included in the daily Events listings.

Banfield's

3140 Packard 971-3300

This east-side sports bar features live music or a DJ on Sat., 8 p.m.-midnight. Dancing, no cover. Aug. 19: **The Hummingbirds**. See Connor O'Neill's. Remainder of August schedule TBA.

Beaner's Coffee

539 E. Liberty 997-0992

This campus-area coffeehouse features live music on Wed., 8-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. August schedule TBA.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. 996-8555

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Also, occasional early shows, 7-10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. Aug. 1: **"Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. Aug. 2: **The Setup**. Lansing college rock quartet. Aug. 3: **Narwhals Collide**. Ypsilanti band that calls its music "freedom rock dancecore." Opening acts are the **Macpodz** (see Aug. 19), the local hip-hop ensemble **Seven Chakras**, the local hip-hop collective **Abolitionists**, and the local punk band **Boxcars**. Aug. 4: **Lost Elementz**. Brighton hip-hop trio. Opening acts are **Dante**, a local hip-hop MC, and **Done Prop'r**, a local hip-hop duo. Aug. 5: **The Dirty Americans**. Detroit band whose heavy, guitar-driven rock 'n' roll has provoked comparisons to Helmet and the Rollins Band. Opening act is **The Disregarded**, a self-styled "dirt-hop" quartet from Oakville whose music blends American roots music with urban rap, gospel-tinged choruses, and rock 'n' roll energy. Aug. 8: **"Showcase Night."** See above. Aug. 9: **Ideas Can Hang Out**. Local experimental duo that features an electronica musician and an artist who creates a painting in response to the music. Opening acts are **DJ Biftek**, the experimental sound DJ **Sound Murderer**, and **Hardcore Detroit**, a break-dancing crew that is accompanied by **DJ Virus**. Aug. 10: **Showdown at the Equator**. Local indie pop quartet. Opening act is **Kocho Bi-Sexual**, a local art-noise pop duo. Aug. 11: **Jonny No-Stars**. Local psychedelic rock band. Opening act is **Osmus**, a postgrunge Detroit rock band. Aug. 12: **The Bang!** Local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. Aug. 13: **Tim O'Reagan**. Pop-smart folk-rock by this Minneapolis singer-songwriter. See Events. Aug. 15: **"Showcase Night."** See above. Aug. 16: **"Your Hip-Hop."** Local hip-hop MCs TBA. Aug. 17: **Big Brother**. Detroit pop-rock band. Opening acts are **The Sound and the Fury**, a local progressive rock band formerly known as Black Box, and **Negative Drop**, an Ypsilanti rock band. Aug. 18: **The Great Lakes Myth Society**. Local folk-rock sextet whose music is an eclectic mix of Appalachian music, prog-rock, and sea shanties. Led by singer-songwriter-guitarists Tim and Jamie Monger, who also play accordion and mandolin, respectively. Opening act is **Mason Proper** (see review, above), an offbeat local avant-noise pop-rock band. Aug. 19: **"Joe Strummer Tribute."** All ages admitted. Headliner is the **Hairy Drain Babies**, a local punk-rock band. Opening acts are the Detroit indie rock band **Desolation Angels**, the Detroit roots reggae and rocksteady quartet **15-92**, and the Chicago punk band **Street Crime**. 7-10 p.m. Aug. 19: **Macpodz**. Immensely popular local local soul-rock jam band. Aug. 22: **Showcase Night.** See above. Aug. 23: **Parachute**. Local jam-rock band. Opening act is **The Atom Dance**, also a local jam-rock band. Aug. 24-26: TBA. Aug. 29: **"Showcase Night."** See above. Aug.



Mason Proper

Musical noise potion

"I knew something like this would happen when their parents started listening to Devo." This was my companion's comment at a recent performance by Ann Arbor's Mason Proper. Only some of the music of these young men from northern Michigan is reminiscent of the 1980s geek-punk they might have heard in the crib. But they carry on a Devoesque tradition of refusing to play by the rules while making highly structured pop-rock music. The result is something decidedly twenty-first century and way cool.

Describing it to you is another matter. No

two songs on their thirteen-track debut CD, *There Is a Moth in Your Chest*, sound similar. You get dreamy singing and quiet guitar, followed by a space-age pointillistic chant, then an upbeat dance tune, then head-banging kraut rock that ends in a fury of blown fuses. Even within each song, they keep you guessing, with tempo changes, sudden stops, and gradual layering that transforms vocalist Jon Visger's sweet and simple melodies into a dense cacophony in under four minutes.

The instrumentation is mostly familiar—guitar (Brian Konicek), bass (Pat Stafford), drums (Chris Aben), tight harmonies—but it also includes what the band describes as "mad science" played by Matt Thomson. This DIY ("do it yourself") noise sends ma-

pop-rock

nipulated feedback and other sound effects through a keyboard or microphone to create eerie, bubbling, scratching, whistling, circus noises that take each piece into a new space and time. Indeed, "mad science" is an apt description.

Mason Proper seems to be following a trend in young local bands. Artist Actual Birds (aka Dustin Krcatovich) and his band the High Spirits, whom I saw at the same benefit show, also use electronic and analog noise. In both bands the addition of sculpted noise to musical compositions can result in a wide range of moods, including humor, otherworldly beauty, and dark, throbbing ugliness that leaves you begging for a pretty piano solo. It also makes lyrics hard to tease out, so I can't tell you what Mason Proper is singing about.

Live shows need to be carefully mixed to keep these sounds from bleeding together into a pulsing mess. When I saw Mason Proper, the mix was too loud for a full appreciation of the music's complexity, though the crowd of fans didn't seem to mind. Some were even dancing—not easy to do to songs that specifically avoid setting down a groove.

Mason Proper doesn't lack for energy in its performances, though. On a small stage, the band members risk crashing into each other in their wild abandon. As mad scientists go, they're definitely more Hyde than Jekyll, and worth a venture into their laboratory.

Mason Proper is at the Blind Pig on Friday, August 18.

—Stephanie Kadel-Taras

30: **Andreyka**. Local posthardcore ambient quartet. Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new CD. Opening acts are the Sterling Heights alternative rock band **The Weekend**, the Grand Rapids progressive posthardcore band **LA Dispute**, and the Tecumseh metal band **Multoc**. Aug. 31: **Covert Operations**. Flint bluegrass-jam band.

Cafe Felix

204 S. Main 662-8650

This downtown cafe features live music every other Fri., 9 p.m.-midnight. No cover, no dancing. Aug. 11 & 25: **Deep Blue**. Jazz trio led by drummer John Churchville.

Cavern Club

210 S. First St. 913-8890

This downtown club in the Celebration Cellars basement banquet space features live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, the complex has 2 street-level clubs, the Millennium Club, which features MTV-style video hits on plasma screens, and Gotham City, which features DJs with house music, Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to all 3 clubs) Sat. only, dancing. Age 18 & older admitted. Aug. 4: **Lady Sunshine & the X Band**. Local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. Aug. 5: **Killer Flamigos**. Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Wayne. Aug. 11: **Joce'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players**. Detroit blues band led by Joce'lyn B, a popular vocalist who's said to blend the voice of "Bessie Smith, the attitude of Mae West, and the mouth of Moms Mabley." Aug. 12: **Killer Flamigos**. See above. Aug. 18: **The Surrogate Band**. Nationally touring Pink Floyd tribute band, complete with a "mind-blowing light show." Aug. 19: **Horse Cave Trio**. Blues-fueled rockabilly by this local trio led by veteran singer-bassist Ron Devore. Aug. 25: **Thornetta Davis**. Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James-style vocalist. Aug. 26: **Killer Flamigos**. See above.

Club Above

215 N. Main 663-7758

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features a variety of live and recorded music Thurs.-Sun., 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Also, karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older admitted unless otherwise noted. Every Fri.: **Latino Night**. DJ Xcess plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9-10 p.m. Every Sun.: **Mexican Night**. With DJ Miguel or a live Mexican band. Every Tues.: **"She-Bang."** DJ plays 80s & 90s pop dance hits. "Ann Arbor's Lesbian Night." Aug. 3: **The Kemicks**. Kalamazoo punk-rock band. Aug. 5: **Noteworthy**. Local funk-soul band. Aug. 10: **Parachute**. See Blind Pig. Aug. 12: **"Reggaeton Party."** A DJ and/or live band TBA performs this Latin dance music that blends reggae and hip-hop. Aug. 17: **The Violent Tradition**. Local metal-hardcore band. Opening act is **Delusion of Faith**, also a local metal band. Aug. 19: **Belikos**, a local Latin-spiced hip-hop/funk band fronted by vocalists Aaron Orr and Melissa Shihadeh. Aug. 24: TBA. Aug. 26: **Noah Dub**. Popular local soul-oriented hip-hop MC. Aug. 31: TBA.

Club Bedrocks

2900 Jackson Rd. 665-4444

Lounge in the Best Western Suites. DJs on Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Every Fri.: **"Mix & Mingle."** DJs spin old school, R&B, reggae, techno, and hip-hop dance records. Every Sat.: **Latino Night**. DJs play Latin dance music.

Connor O'Neill's

318 S. Main 665-2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30-10 p.m.) and Tues.-Thurs. and occasional other nights (9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.). Every Sun.: **Traditional Irish Session**. All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. Every Tues.: **Jerry Sprague Band**. Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. Aug. 2: **The Hummingbirds**. Twang-

filled acoustic country and American roots music by the local duo of singer-guitarists S. G. Wood and Rachel Hercula that won a Detroit Music Award as Best Country Band. Aug. 3: **Randy Brock Group**. Detroit blues trio. Aug. 9: **George Martha Band**. Detroit trio that plays traditional Celtic music with a Middle Eastern accent. Aug. 10: TBA. Aug. 16: **Johnny & the Fenders**. Traditional Irish ballads and drinking songs by this Detroit band that includes members of the Diggers. Aug. 17: **Blues Infusion**. Blues and vintage blues-rock by this veteran local quintet. Aug. 23: **Shaun Gareth Walker**. Local singer-guitarist with an eclectic, wide-ranging repertoire. Aug. 24: **George Martha Band**. See above. Aug. 30: TBA. Aug. 31: **The Hummingbirds**. See above.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main 665-9468

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30-10:30 p.m. Aug. 4: **Fourth Wish**. Ballads and blues standards and oddities by this local jazz quartet. Members are winds player Jon Margerum-Leys, keyboardist Tyler Driskill, bassist Rick Rickman, and percussionist Kaamran Hafeez. Aug. 5: **Markita Moore**. Soulful acoustic folk and rock by this singer-guitarist. Aug. 11: **Wei**. Alt-chamber originals by this local trio that includes bluegrass guitarist Matt Matthews, jazz mandolinist Paul Ossy, and Xiao Dong Wei, who plays the *ehru*, a 2-stringed Chinese violin, and the *guzheng*, a Chinese zither. Aug. 12: **Timothy Monger**. High lonesome originals by this engaging singer-songwriter-guitarist from the Great Lakes Myth Society. Aug. 18: **Michael Beauchamp**. Former member of the local Dumb and Ugly Club acoustic duo who writes folk-style acoustic postpunk songs. Aug. 19: **Muruga's Global Village Ceremonial Band**. Local sextet led by percussionist Muruga Booker that performs an upbeat blend of rock, worldbeat, hip-hop, folk, jazz, and more. With vocalist Shakti, local keyboardist Martin Simmons, electric violinist Owen Baldof, bassist Richard Smith, and synthesizer player and Zen drummer Ken Kozora. Aug. 25: **Annie**

Capps. Local singer-songwriter and electric guitarist who writes jazz-tinged folk-rock songs with a strong personal flavor. She has released 3 CDs, including the recent *Not So Sure*. She is accompanied by her husband, guitarist Rod Capps, and singer-percussionist Christine Schinker. **Aug. 26: Joe Summers.** This local guitar virtuoso plays the music of Django Reinhardt, Charlie Christian, and Lenny Breau.

Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. 827-2737

The intimate bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.-midnight. Cover, dancing. **August 27: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-30s swing and 40s R&B.

Dreamland Theater

44 E. Cross, Ypsilanti 657-2337

This Depot Town theater features occasional live music Thurs. & occasional other nights, 8-10 p.m. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. **Aug. 3: Patrick Elkins.** Ypsilanti singer-songwriter whose shows also include performance art, poetry, and finger-puppetry. Opening acts are the eclectic local composer-keyboardist **Misha Grey** and **Dear Astronaut**, a Milwaukee singer-songwriter who writes dark, dirgy acid-folk songs that recall Leonard Cohen, Angles of Light, and early Palace Brothers. **Aug. 10: Confusion Reactor**, a band led by Ypsilanti guitarist and electronic musician Thomas Barton that plays experimental psychedelic music drawing on influences ranging from Captain Beefheart to Brian Eno and Tangerine Dream. Opening act is the **Redlight Chamber Choir**, a local band that plays postrock instrumentals accompanied by video projections. Also, a performance of Jess Rowland's marionette show, *Dirt*. **Aug. 17: Annie Palmer.** Ypsilanti pop-folk singer-songwriter. Opening act is **Ani-matics**, the stage name of Ypsilanti experimental folk singer-songwriter Jeremy Chouinard. **Aug. 24: Highway Muse.** Ypsilanti-based experimental psychedelic folk-rock singer-songwriter who also goes by the name of Anni Paisley. Opening acts are the **Liquid Music Ensemble**, an Ypsilanti experimental ambient band, and **Bam**, an experimental folk-rock quartet from Ferndale. **Aug. 26: Fred Thomas.** Versatile local singer-songwriter known for his moody, gorgeously crafted indie pop. **Aug. 31: Almus Magnus.** UP-bred, Detroit-based country-folk singer-songwriter.

The Earle

121 W. Washington 994-0211

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.-Sat., 8-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Tues.: Duncan McMillan.** Solo pianist. **Every Wed.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, bassist Robert Warren, and a drummer TBA.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti 483-6374

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon., Wed., Thurs., and occasional other weeknights, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.-midnight. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "House Night."** With DJ **Brian Roy.** **Every Wed.: Open Mike Jam.** All musicians invited. **Aug. 3: Stephanie Lovelless.** Detroit folk-punk singer-songwriter. Opening acts are **Lenny Zenith**, a local indie rock singer-songwriter, and **Vanessa Marie Spitzer**, a blues-inflected folk-punk singer-songwriter from Mount Clemens. **Aug. 4: As They Sleep.** Detroit death metal quartet. Opening acts are the Belleville screamo-metal band **Dawn Must Be Silenced**, the Rochester Hills metalcore band **Kaleima**, and the Grand Rapids metal band **Atearnal**. **Aug. 5: Amoeba Kids.** The duo of guitarist Craig Johnson and drummer Ethan Disbrow plays rock 'n' roll influenced by Ween, Frank Zappa, and Captain Beefheart. Opening act is **Fancy Panthers**, an Ypsilanti indie pop-rock band. **Aug. 8: Whistle Jacket.** Folk-rock indie pop band from Boston known for its resonant vocal harmonies and emotional directness. Opening acts are **Jonathan Hape**, an indie pop singer-songwriter from Mansfield, Ohio, and **Perhappsy**, a local experimental ambient band. **Aug. 10: "Ypsisongs."** Performances by several of the artists featured on this new compilation CD of songs inspired by Ypsilanti. Tonight's performers include **Fred Thomas**, **Brandon Wiard**, **Scotty Karate**, **The Rants**, **Charlie Slick**, **Emily Jane Powers**, **Vailcode**, **Dave Lawson**, **Modernlull**, **Drunken Barn Dance**, and **Coke Dick Motorcycle Awesome**. 8 p.m.-2 a.m.

Aug. 11: Soldiers of the Constellation Q.

Cincinnati rock band. Opening acts are **Fall Prey**, a Wyandotte rock sextet fronted by vocalist Amanda Jacob, and other bands TBA. **Aug. 12: Jealous Type.** Local rock 'n' roll band. Opening acts are **Ghost City**, a Detroit screamo metal quartet, and **Brief Candles**, a Milwaukee shoegazer band. Also, a fashion show. **Aug. 15: Abi Yoyos.** Avant-pop quartet from Santa Cruz. Opening act is **Shakey Bones**, a self-styled "Christian a cappella death metal" band from California. **Aug. 17: Johnny. has-his.band.** Experimental ambient hardcore band from Paw Paw. Opening acts are **In Civilian Clothing**, a local rock band, and **JBoozer**, a rock 'n' roll jam band from St. Louis fronted by Boozer, who (a la Hasil Adkins) sings while playing guitar with his hands and drums with his feet. **Aug. 18: Blammo.** Veteran local sextet that plays a blend of wickedly humorous, socially observant originals and choice punk covers by the likes of Patti Smith, the Dead Kennedys, X, and the Ramones. Opening acts are the local rock band **Smashbandits**, the old-school punk band **Motor City Orphans**, and **Choking Susan**, an irreverently trashy Detroit punk quartet fronted by singer-songwriter Colleen Caffeine. **Aug. 19: The Impaler.** Detroit goth band led by a vocalist who goes by the name of the Impaler. Opening acts are the Kentucky punk band **Be My Doppelganger**, the rock band **Knuckle Dragger**, and the alternative rock band **My Evil Twin**. **Aug. 25: Whitney Morgan & the Waycross.** Georgia, Farm Boys. Detroit retro outlaw honky-tonk band. Opening acts are **4 Barrel Ghost**, a rockabilly-punk band from Pittsburgh, and other bands TBA. **Aug. 26: Astro Zombies.** Howell punk-rock quartet. Opening acts are the Lansing stoner sludge band **Death Valley Dragline**, the Windsor metal band **Grand Marais**, and the Ypsilanti drum & band grindcore duo **Minus 9**.

Enzo's Sports Bar

3965 S. State 665-1600

This south-side sports bar features DJs on Mon. & Thurs., 7:30-10 p.m., and Wed., Fri., & Sat., 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Also, poker tournaments, Sat., 5 & 8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Blues Jam Session.** All musicians invited. Hosted by **The Witch Doctors.** **Every Mon. & Thurs.: Lori Withrow.** Pop covers and originals by this local singer-guitarist. **Aug. 4: Moxie.** Blues band. **Aug. 5: TBA.** **Aug. 11: Nick Strange Trio.** Popular local rock, blues, & reggae dance band. **Aug. 12: Goodtime Rollers.** Local blues and blues-rock trio. **Aug. 18: Insurrection.** Local modern blues quartet led by singer-guitarist David White. **Aug. 19: Atticatz.** Veteran local quartet whose repertoire includes classic rock, blues, R&B, jazz, funk, reggae, and rockabilly. **Aug. 25 & 26: TBA.**

Espresso Royale Caffe

214 S. Main 668-1838

The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features live music on Sat., 9-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Aug. 5: The Brakemen.** Rootsy folk-rock by this Detroit band led by singer-songwriters Jon Milan and Rick Pinkerton. **Aug. 12: Pale-dave.** Acoustic folk and rock covers and originals by this local singer-songwriter. **Aug. 19: Dale Osborn.** Leo Kottke-style singer-guitarist from Chelsea who performs tasty covers and originals. **Aug. 26: Liz Stahler.** Highly regarded pop-folk singer-songwriter from Boston whose influences range from Patti Griffin and Lucinda Williams to Coldplay and Radiohead.

The Firefly Club

207 S. Ashley 665-9090

Jazz and blues club that was recently named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press*. Live jazz Mon., Tues., & Thurs., 8 p.m.-midnight; Wed., 7-10 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-1 a.m.; & Sun., 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs., Fri., & Sun., 5-8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri. (5:30-8 p.m.): Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun. (5-8 p.m.): Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 20s and early 30s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Sun.: "Elevation."** Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graffiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band, formerly known as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly

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Club owner) Susan Chastain. **Every Wed.:** "Piano Jazz." A different solo jazz pianist each week. No cover. **Every Thurs.** (7-10 p.m.): **Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-cha by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 50s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded at 6 p.m. by Latin dance lessons (\$5 includes cover for the band). **Every Thurs.:** "Intermission." DJs IrwinPlus and **Potato Head** play underground hip-hop and downtempo records. 10:30 p.m.-2 a.m. **Aug. 4:** **Paul VornHagen Quartet.** Upbeat Latin jazz and swing-bop by this ensemble led by local saxophonist and flutist VornHagen. With bassist Kurt Krahnke, drummer Pete Siers, and pianist Tad Weed. **Aug. 5:** **Sean Dobbins Trio.** Local jazz ensemble led by drummer Dobbins. **Aug. 8:** **Straight Ahead.** Mainstream bebop and contemporary jazz by this highly regarded all-female Detroit quintet led by pianist Eileen Orr, with drummer Gaylynne McKinney, bassist Marion Hayden, flutist Althea Rene, and vocalist Kymberli Wright. **Aug. 11:** **Kurt Krahnke's Trey.** Jazz trio led by local bassist Krahnke. **Aug. 12:** **Paul Keller Trio.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller, with guest vocalist **Jesse Palter.** **Aug. 15:** **Jake Reichbart.** This veteran local jazz guitarist leads his new jazz-funk ensemble. **Aug. 18:** **Steve Richko Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by dynamic young Detroit pianist Richko. **Aug. 19:** **Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** See Cavern Club. **Aug. 22:** **J-Cube.** Self-styled "electric groove jazz" by this new local trio led by guitarist Jake Reichbart and featuring former Smokestack members Jacob Chmara and Dan Eichinger. **Aug. 25:** **Jeff Greene Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by this Chicago guitarist. **Aug. 26:** **George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band has released 3 acclaimed CDs. **Aug. 29:** **Tad Weed Freedom Ensemble.** Progressive to mainstream jazz by an all-star ensemble led by this highly regarded pianist, a Jackson, Michigan, native. With saxophonist Andrew Bishop, Detroit bassist Tim Flood, and Los Gatos drummer Pete Siers.

Good Time Charley's
1140 South University 668-8411
This new club upstairs at Good Time Charley's restaurant features DJs Wed.-Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Wed.:** "Wild Out Wednesdays." Old-school and new-school hits with DJ Graffiti and DJ C-4. **Every Thurs.:** "Foundation." DJs Zuma Hi-Fi and Selector Billy the Kid play dancehall, roots reggae, soca, calypso, hip-hop, and R&B records. **Every Fri.:** TGIF. DJ Scotty plays music requested by the audience. **Every Sat.:** Top 40. With DJs TBA.

Goodnite Gracie
301 W. Huron 623-2070
Martini and cigar bar connected to Live at PJ's restaurant. Live jazz Wed.-Sat., 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. **Every Tues.:** "Deep-Chilled House & Techno." With DJ Aarnio. **Every Wed. & Thurs.:** **Laith Al-Saadi.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Aug. 4:** **Busstop.** Smart, playful rock 'n' roll with a funky R&B edge by this local band fronted by Julia Ingalls whose repertoire ranges from vintage Stevie Wonder and Steely Dan to Sheryl Crow, along with some originals. **Aug. 5:** **Relativity.** Detroit jazz ensemble led by bassist Damon Warmack. **Aug. 11:** **Dave Sharp Quartet.** Straight-ahead jazz by this local quartet led by bassist Sharp. **Aug. 12:** **The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of house-rocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. The band has a CD, *Well Tuned*. With guitarist Dave Fero, blues harpist and keyboardist Phil Ryski, saxophonist Willie Rankin, bassist Wendy Hayes, and drummer Lenny Gilpatrick. **Aug. 18:** **Odessa Harris Trio.** This dynamic Detroit vocalist, who sings bluesy jazz in the style of Dinah Washington, is backed by a jazz trio. **Aug. 19:** **Lucas Paul & Mario Ghossoub.** Local duo led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul. **Aug. 25:** **The Bluescasters.** Local blues band. **Aug. 26:** **Tumbao Bravo.** Cuban jazz quintet led by local saxophonist

and flutist Paul VornHagen and percussionist Alberto Nacif. With pianist Sven Anderson, bassist John Barron, and Javier Barrios on timbales. The band has released a CD, *Montuno Salad*.

Guy Hollerin's
3600 Plymouth Rd. 769-9800
The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features DJs on Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Sat.:** "Salsa Night." High-energy Latin dance music with DJ Ronnie and DJ Sabor.

The Habitat Ultralounge
3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636
The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.-Thurs., 8:45 p.m.-12:30 a.m., & Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Also, solo piano by **Tim Knapp** (Tues.-Thurs., Sat., & Sun.) and **Adam Riccinto** (Fri.), 6-8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.:** "Starlight Sundays." Dancing on the outside terrace to music by DJ Mechial White. **Every Mon.:** "Monday Groove." With DJ Mechial White. 7 p.m.-midnight. **Aug. 1-3:** **Dynamic Trio.** Detroit dance band fronted by a female vocalist. **Aug. 4 & 5:** **Government Honey.** Detroit quartet that plays 70s dance rock. **Aug. 8-12:** **Soulstice.** Hard-driving dance band from East Lansing. **Aug. 15-17:** **Dynamic Trio.** See above. **Aug. 18 & 19:** **Joy Ride.** Detroit dance band. **Aug. 22-26:** **Destiny.** Jackson-area band that plays Latin dance pop. **Aug. 29-31:** **The Candidates.** East Lansing dance band.

Live at PJ's
102 S. First St. 623-1443
Jazz lounge features live music Wed.-Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Wed.:** "Retro 80s." With DJ Scotty Styles. **Every Thurs.:** "Audio-Forward Thinking Dance Music." With DJ Scotty Styles. **Aug. 4:** **Ultraviolet.** Detroit band that plays 80s & 90s rock hits. **Aug. 5:** **Kris Kurzawa Quartet.** Local quintet, formerly known as Sparklemotion, that plays jazz, soul, and avant-funk covers and originals. **Aug. 11:** **L'Renee.** Detroit R&B and soul singer in the tradition of Sade, Laurn Hill, and Eryka Badu. **Aug. 12 & 18:** **Blackman & Arnold.** Gypsy jazz by a quartet led by guitarists Sean Blackman and John Arnold. **Aug. 19:** TBA. **Aug. 25:** **Laith Al-Saadi.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Aug. 26:** **Jamie Register Project.** Motownesque soul music by a band led by local singer-bassist Register.

MJ's Wooden Nickel
901 W. Huron River Dr., Ypsilanti 544-4644
This EMU campus-area bar and restaurant features live music Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, poker tournaments, Wed., 7 & 10 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Aug 4 & 5:** TBA. **Aug. 11:** **Soldiers of Scrape.** Local metal band. **Aug. 12:** **Voodoo Lighthouse.** Local pop-ska jam band. Opening act is **Delusions of Faith**, a local hard-rock band. **Aug. 18:** TBA. **Aug. 19:** **Misconceived.** Hard-rock metal band. Opening acts are 2 local heavy-metal bands, **Fatal Plague** and **Crank Nine**. **Aug. 25 & 26:** TBA.

The Necto
516 E. Liberty 994-5436
This popular local dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.-Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.-Sat. after 10 p.m. only), dancing. **Every Sun.:** "Vision Sunday." Guest DJs spin house and techno records. **Every Mon.:** "Factory." DJ Jinx spins industrial, goth, and synth pop records. **Every Thurs.:** "College Night." DJ Binzo spins Top 40 and hip-hop records. **Every Fri.:** "Pride." With DJ Timmy D spinning high-energy dance tunes in the main room and, in the downstairs Red Room, DJ Mark playing retro music videos and DJ John G spinning Top 40 records. **Every Sat.:** "Frequency." In the main room DJ Binzo plays Top 40 hip-hop and dance music, and in the Red Room a variety of Top 40 music videos.

Northfield Roadhouse
50 E. North Territorial at Whitmore Lake Rd. 327-3693
This tavern features a DJ Thurs., 8 p.m.-midnight, and live music Wed., 8-11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.; and Sun., 6:30-10:30 p.m. Also, karaoke on Tues. Dancing, cover Thurs.-Sat. only. **Every Sun.:** Blues band TBA. **Every Wed.:** **Blues Jam.** All blues musicians invited. Hosted by guitarist Pete Bullard. **Aug. 3:** **Whit Hill & the Postcards.** Local quartet led by multi-talented performance artist Hill (aka Whitley Se-trakian) who writes richly imaginative country-folk

originals that are often spiked with her offbeat sense of humor. Other members are keyboardist Al Hill (Whitley's husband), bassist Tim Marks, and new drummer Tim Gahagan. The band recently released its 2nd CD, *Farsighted*. **Aug. 4:** **Al Hill & the Love Butlers.** Soulful swing, New Orleans-style funk, and boogie-woogie blues by this veteran local band led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano. **Aug. 5:** **Matt Besey Band.** Saginaw blues band led by singer-guitarist Besey. **Aug. 6:** **Wylie Coyote.** Detroit-area blues and blues-rock led by tenor saxophonist Joe LeBeau. **Aug. 10:** **Vinnie & the Other Guys.** Local blues band. **Aug. 11:** **The Terraplanes.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Aug. 12:** **Kris Kurzawa Quartet.** See Live at PJ's. **Aug. 13:** **Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from early Chuck Berry to Sam & Dave to the Meters. The band's guiding presence seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist George Bedard, pedal steel guitarist Mark O'Boyle, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. **Aug. 17:** TBA. **Aug. 18:** **The Witch Doctors.** This local blues and R&B band led by singer-guitarist Thayne, best known as the host of the nationally syndicated *Bone Conduction Music Show*, plays what Thayne calls "way-strong mojo, ritualistic bar-room blues healing." **Aug. 19:** **Blues Infusion.** See Conor O'Neill's. **Aug. 20:** **Wixom Slim & the Wyze Gyze.** Ann Arbor-area band that plays a variety of swing and jump blues styles. **Aug. 24:** TBA. **Aug. 25:** **Mystery Train.** Popular rockabilly and roots-rock band led by veteran Detroit guitarist Jim McCarty. **Aug. 26:** **Brother Bill & Company.** Local blues quartet led by bassist Bill Lewis. **Aug. 27:** **Drivin' Sideways.** See above. **Aug. 31:** **Joe Summers Gypsy Jazz Trio.** This local trio led by guitar virtuoso Summers plays the music of Django Reinhardt, Charlie Christian, and Lenny Breau. With guitarist Chris Moyer and bassist Dave Sharp.

Old Town
122 W. Liberty 662-9291
This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. and occasional other nights, 8-10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Aug. 6:** **Charlie Weaver and Brian Flechsig.** Acoustic folk music "with a touch of bluegrass and trout stream rhythms" by this northern singer-guitarist, a former Ann Arborite who was a regular at the Old Town Sunday night folk jams in the early 80s. **Aug. 13:** **Derek Daniel.** Acoustic folk and rock covers by this Ypsilanti singer-guitarist. **Aug. 20:** **Jack Spack & Friends.** Acoustic singer-songwriter from Ypsilanti who writes heartfelt, charmingly melodic songs about the ups and downs of everyday life. **Aug. 27:** **Dave Boutette.** Local folk-rock singer-guitarist whose genial songs about the small ups and downs of ordinary life draw on a range of influences from Chuck Berry to Paul Westerberg. He has released 2 CDs, including *Confetti*.

Oz
210 S. Fifth Ave. 222-4770
Nightclub located in the former Ann Arbor Theater. DJs or live music Tues. & Wed., 8 p.m.-2 a.m.; Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.-4 a.m.; & occasional Sun., 6 p.m.-midnight. Cover after 11 p.m., dancing. **Every Wed.:** **Gay Night.** With DJs TBA. **Every Thurs.:** **Top 40 Night.** With DJ Fares. **Every Fri.:** **International Night.** Arabic, Indian, and hip-hop music with DJ Fares. Also, a belly dancing show at midnight. **Every Sat.:** **Hip-Hop and Old Skool.** With DJ Fares.

Oz's Music Environment
1920 Packard 662-8283
This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music Tues. & occasional other nights, 7:30-9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **Aug. 1:** "Songwriters Open Stage." All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Aug. 8:** "Anything Goes Open Stage." All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **Aug. 15:** "Acoustic Open Stage." All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Dave Guimond. **Aug. 22:** "Songwriters Circle." All songwriters invited. Hosted by Mickey Richard.

Rick's American Cafe
611 Church 996-2747
This campus-area club features DJs Mon. & Wed.-Sat., 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Mon.:** **DJ Fro.** DJ spins

dance records. **Every Wed.:** **DJ Big Daddie.** DJ spins dance records. **Every Thurs.:** "Jammin' DJs." DJs TBA play dance music. **Every Fri. & Sat.:** **DJ Big Daddie.** See above.

Rush Street
314 S. Main 913-0330
The bar in this new downtown restaurant features DJs Thurs. and live music Sat., 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. **Every Thurs.:** **Mechial White.** DJ plays an assortment of contemporary music. **Every Sat.:** Live music TBA.

Studio 4
313 S. Fourth Ave. 302-3687
This dinner club features DJs Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m., playing a wide variety of dance music. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older admitted. **Every Sat.:** "Hip-Hop and House Night." With DJ Jason "J Smooth" Doliveck.

Tap Room
201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482-5320
This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern hosts Monday open mikes, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.:** **Open Mike.** Hosted by the Martindales singer-guitarist Brian Brickley.

Tap Room Annex
205 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 487-5544
This tavern next door to the Tap Room features live acoustic music Thurs. & Sat., 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., and Fri., 9-11 p.m. No dancing, no cover. **Every Thurs.:** **Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales**, a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All bands invited. **Every Sat.:** **Acoustic Open Stage.** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by the Martindales singer-guitarist Brian Brickley. **Every Fri.:** **John Latini & Friends.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter, who is joined by different guest musicians each week.

TC's Speakeasy
207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483-4470
This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features a jam session on Mon., karaoke on Tues., DJs on Wed., and dance bands Thurs.-Sat., 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, poker tournaments, Sun., 7 & 10 p.m. Dancing, no cover unless otherwise noted. **Every Sun.:** **Local Music Night.** Bands TBA. **Every Mon.:** **Open Mike.** All musicians invited. Hosted by the local pop-folk jam band City Goat. **Aug. 4:** **The Smit-tens.** Indie pop band from Burlington, Vermont. Opening acts are **Showdown at the Equator** (see Blind Pig), the Cleveland/Detroit pop band **Icicles**, and **Umberto**, the stage name of Gina Pensiero, who writes quirky, offbeat art-pop songs. **Aug. 5:** TBA. **Aug. 11:** **Hundreds of Thousands.** Local pop band. **Aug. 12:** TBA. **Aug. 18:** **Mound.** Detroit rock 'n' roll band. Opening act is **Jonny No-Stars** (see Blind Pig). **Aug. 19:** TBA. **Aug. 25:** **The Muggs.** Downriver band that plays straight-ahead rock 'n' roll. Opening act is **Dirt Road Logic**, a 70s-style rock 'n' roll band fronted by singer-guitarist Eric Kelly and featuring 3 former members of American Cosmos. The band has a new CD, *Great Lake Heartache*. **Aug. 26:** **Euphoric Haze.** Canton punk-rock quartet. Opening acts TBA.

Theo Doors
705 W. Cross, Ypsilanti 485-6720
This EMU campus-area restaurant turns into a dance club on Tues., 10 p.m.-2 a.m., with live hip-hop bands. Cover, dancing. August schedule TBA.

Zingerman's Roadhouse
2501 Jackson 663-FOOD
This west-side restaurant presents live music on its patio on Wed., 5-8 p.m. No cover, dancing. **Aug. 2:** **John Latini & Friends.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter, who is joined by local guest performers TBA. **Aug. 9:** **Jamie-Sue Seal & The Radiotown Players.** Lansing-area band whose music blends an array of American roots idioms, including folk, country, bluegrass, blues, and soul. **Aug. 16:** **The Hummingbirds.** See Conor O'Neill's. **Aug. 23:** **Mike Smith & the Cadillac Cowboys.** Veteran local country band led by singer-guitarist Smith. **Aug. 30:** **Annie Capps & Friends.** Local singer-songwriter and electric guitarist who writes jazz-tinged folk-rock songs. She is joined by her husband, guitarist Rod Capps, and other local musicians TBA.

Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian	J=Jewish
B=Black	L=Letters
C=Christian	LTR=Long Term Relationship
D=Divorced	M=Male
F=Female	ND=Nondrinker
G=Gay	NS=Nonsmoker
H=Hispanic	☎=Phone Calls
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate	P=Professional
ISO=In Search Of	S=Single
	W=White

Women Seeking Men

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

PERSONAL CALL

(900) 226-8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
\$1.95/min.

Let's catch the last waves of summer fun together. Tall, slender, pretty Pisces ISO tall, fit, active professional with open mind and open heart, 48-62. ☎5623

Fill in your blank. Fit, funny, fabulous DWF seeks unattached male for friendship and romance. This 5'8" blonde is professional, playful, smart, sensuous, and goes the extra mile for the right guy (or family or friends). I like dinners out, long walks and long kisses, movies, music, mangos, tango. You're smart, kind, with a sense of humor and romance and a good career and life—missing only a great woman. ☎5626

Liberal, slender, smart, fit, good woman ISO a very good man, 45-55. ☎5624

Can you make this lovely Leo pun? SWPF, loving, energetic, fit, seeks SPM, 45-55, with open mind and heart, who is loving, humorous, successful, and attractive. ☎5616

Nature photographer, writer, animal lover SWPF seeks like-minded gentleman, 40-plus, for travel, trips, companionship. NS, ND, grounded, intelligent, ready for a meaningful relationship. You? ☎5617

Attractive, loving, caring, slim Asian lady, 5'6", young-looking, 60-plus. Loves yoga, metaphysics, books, music, travel, cooking. Seeks SWM, 60-plus to 75, NS, ND, honest, loving, kind soul mate. ☎5612

Beautiful inside and out. I'm a joyful, vibrant, creative blonde in my 40s—romantic yet feisty and independent, spiritual and sensuous, a professional who values work and play. I want to explore life and savor it—beach walks, long kisses, poetry, tapas, and theater. I'm seeking a smart, generous, creative, decent man with a spirit of adventure and romance. ☎5625

61, WF, 5'4", average size, honest, caring, decent lady. Many interests. Looking for an NS guy near my age for long-term or marriage if he is Mr. Right. ☎5613

Afraid of a Ph.D. in a miniskirt? If so, ignore this. I'm 30—a bubbly, svelte, 5'5" romantic brunette with illegal lashes. Never married, new to Ann Arbor, looking for her match. ☎5609

Classy, highly educated, foreign-born lady, semiretired. Looking for a healthy gentleman in his 60s. ☎5598

Men Seeking Women

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

PERSONAL CALL

(900) 226-8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
\$1.95/min.

Bright, bearded, boyish SWM, 59, retired professor, fond of food, film, cats, chats, walks, seeks SF for long-term romance, travel, fun. ☎5629

DWPM. Tall, slim, fit. Likes to laugh, travel, hike, read. Enjoys movies, plays, conversation, nature, sports. ISO woman, 48-57, with similar and additional interests. Will we make each other smile? ☎5628

Life is great! Active, healthy, happy SWM, 40s, has a home and a dog. I enjoy cooking, photography, nature, yoga, disc golf, and more. Seeking SF to share life's adventures. ☎5627

SWM, 35, never married, no kids, 5'10", 180, if that matters. I'm starting to think Ann Arbor is a bad town for a thirty-something single. Prove me wrong? ☎5615

Do you know the exceptional woman I need? If not yourself, we will be grateful if you tell her. Widower, no dependents, youngish 70, 6'2", attractive; serious hearing loss but quite able to hear all considerate speakers. Otherwise robust, NS, ND, MSU soc. sci. prof in E. Lansing doing fascinating research into responsibility for democracy. Ethnically Jewish, militant agnostic. Progressive, NYT and news addict, foreign films, widely traveled, health and quality conscious, witty, many interests and talents. You are younger, lovely, normal to slender, physically and mentally healthy, competent, accomplished, sensual, kind, have a joie de vivre, and seek a permanent, mutually supportive relationship. If you call, speak slowly and repeat phone numbers clearly so your call won't be lost. ☎5620

Nice gentleman looking for LTR. Likes movies, outdoors, and going out. Knows how to treat a woman. SBM, 42, looking for a woman to share life with. ☎5608

SWM, 45, ISO SF, 33-45, who likes movies, going out to eat, and spending time together. Just give me a chance, I won't steer you wrong. Kids okay. ☎5597

Sensitive, sincere SWPM, 49, 5'11", who listens and is fit, seeks artistic female for films, music, tennis, museums, and fun. ☎5510

SWM, 48, smart, funny, interesting ex-teacher/pro handyman/musician seeks open-minded, sensuous, laid-back, NS F, 46-55, for friendship and dating. ☎5604

I want to meet a non-over-cautious, non-over-sensitive, non-independent-flaunting, attractive female who likes 45-year-old, trim, almost attractive SWMs. ☎5583

Take a chance. SWPM, 49, 5'8", fit, intro-spective, with no dependents, seeking fit SWPF, 35-50, who is flexible, fun, and curious. ☎5603

SWM, physically fit, NS, intelligent, honest, accommodating. Enjoys books, movies, travel. ISO similar SWF, compatible, attractive, approximately 45-60. ☎2918

DWM, 54, 5'9", 150 lbs., no children, Ph.D. scientist/farmer in conservation/ecology. ISO woman scientist for rural life, international travel, romance. ☎4486

Educated, fit DWPM loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO thin, elegant woman, 39-47, who is positive on relationships. ☎3031

Women Seeking Women

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PERSONAL CALL

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18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
\$1.95/min.

Men Seeking Men

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

PERSONAL CALL

(900) 226-8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
\$1.95/min.

Friendships

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

PERSONAL CALL

(900) 226-8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
\$1.95/min.

Searching for artists in the Ypsi-Arbor area who would like to meet, share ideas, and feed off of one another. Open to writers, musicians, painters, etc. ☎5621

General Personals

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

FAKE AD CONTEST

Can you find the fake display ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate from one of our advertisers. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, August 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: Fake Ad, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769-4950; e-mail: penny@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number).

ANN ARBOR SKI CLUB

You don't have to ski to be a member! The AASC is a "4 season" social and sports club (you can join now for our summer activities) for singles & couples 21/over from A2 and surrounding communities. Established organization averaging 400 members! Upcoming events: 8/1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Rollerblading at Hudson Mills Metro Park; 8/7, 14, 21, 28 Volleyball at Burns Park; 8/11 Night Out on the Town; 8/13, 27 Sunday Golf Outing; 8/26 German Park; AND 8/27 CORN ROAST AND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. For more information on events, including our sign-up procedures, consult the Club Hotline, (734) 761-3419 or www.a2skiclub.org.

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Follow the simple directions and you will be able to hear more about the people whose ads interest you, or you can browse ads by category. With one call, you can leave as many messages as you like. You may call anytime, 24 hours a day. Voice greetings are valid only for the month they appear in print.

You must be 18 or older.
Touch-Tone phones only. \$1.95 a minute.

Or to Respond by Phone Using a Credit Card, Call 1-888-718-4827

To Respond to a Personals Ad by Mail

Responses are forwarded for \$3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes. Mail all responses (in a larger envelope) to the Observer; include a check for \$3 per response made payable to:

Ann Arbor Observer • 201 Catherine • Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Place your FREE Ann Arbor Observer Personals Ad Today!

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www.arborweb.com

Please call with any questions or comments:
(734) 769-3175

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

Love is in the air!

Every Friday at 8:35 a.m. on WAAM 1600AM, listen for the Personals Ads of the Week from WAAM's Lucy Ann Lance and the Ann Arbor Observer's Amy Retherford.

brought to you by:



Ann Arbor Observer

Classifieds

Employment

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

For Sale

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

For sale: Yamaha upright piano and bench in ebony. Great condition and excellent sound. \$3,200. Call (734) 769-3175. Ask for Vikki.

Entertainment

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 10.

TERRABELLA TRIO

Elegant music featuring flute, violin, and cello. Call (734) 996-0303.

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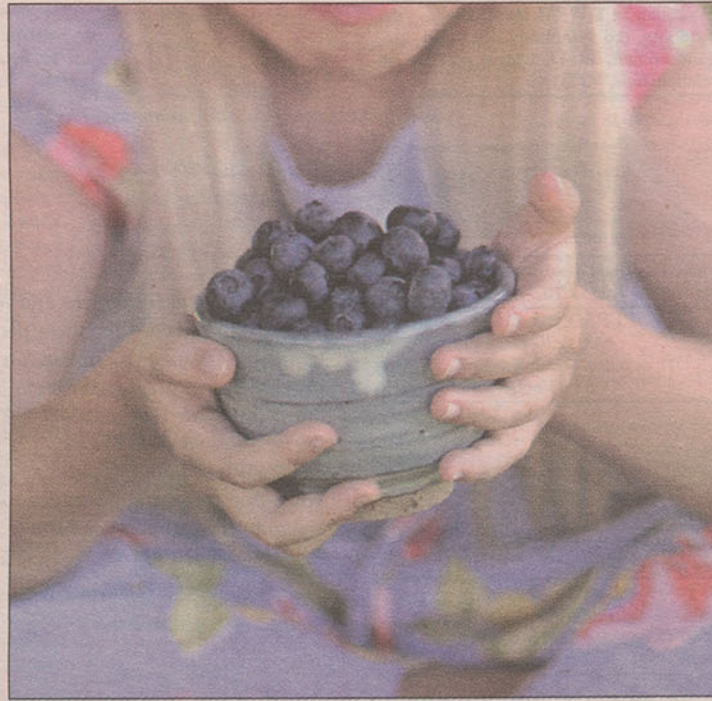
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On the Cover: This spectacular 3,899-sq.-ft. landmark Ann Arbor home is in the Angell School area. It features 5 bedrooms and 5½ baths. Built in 1860 and restored with all its charm intact, the house includes in its many amenities hand-hewn doors and woodwork, ivory doorknobs, a study with the original pocket doors, and ten-foot ceilings on the first floor. Also, a formal dining room, a conservatory, and a screened porch. The contemporary kitchen is stocked with top-of-the-line appliances. \$930,000, Carolyn Lepard, Edward Surovell Realtors. (734) 663-9202.

Cover photo by J. Adrian Wylie

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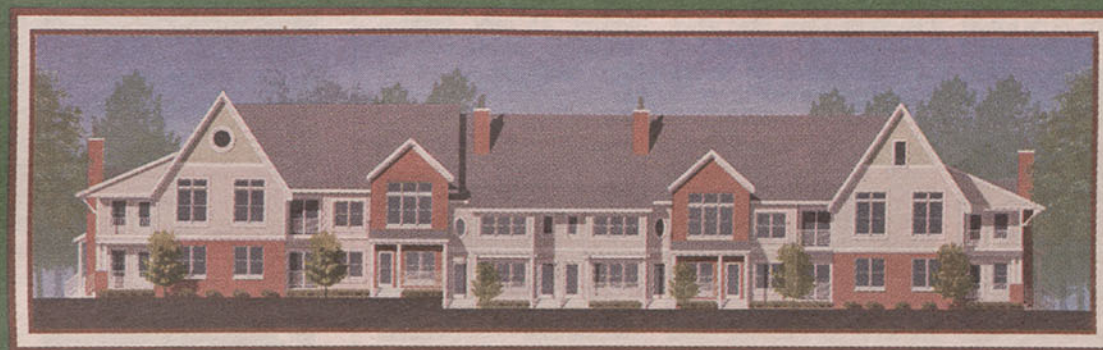
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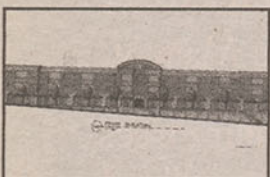
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Dexter 7683 Queen Annes Ct. Attractive, light-filled, almost new 1.5-story home. 2x6 walls, quality throughout, 1st floor master suite, viewout lower level, on one acre. Great value in Brass Creek. \$434,900. #2608273

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Ann Arbor 2920 Glazier Way. Stunning, wonderful contemporary on gorgeous wooded lot. Updated, 3,657 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, study, screened porch. Ann Arbor Township taxes. Awesome home! \$640,000. #2607649



Ann Arbor 3692 Briarlee Way. Striking 3,700 sq. ft., 5 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath with beautiful wooded site and access to Huron River. Tons of windows, hardwood floors, cherry and granite, finished viewout. \$649,000. #2609128



Ann Arbor 710 Watershed. Stunning contemporary home nestled in the woods. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 fireplaces, screened porch. Desirable neighborhood, minutes to town. Private! \$699,000. #2606507



Ann Arbor 4954 High Meadow Ln. Fabulous custom home with every detail, on almost 2 acres. 5,200 sq. ft. includes walkout, hardwood floors, 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath, gourmet kitchen, 4 fireplaces and 3 porches. \$799,000. #2608897



Ann Arbor 3040 Bird Song Ln. New, Elan Designs brick and cedar home. 2.8 acres, King School. Maple/granite kitchen, study, 1st floor master. 5,200 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, walkout. \$1,090,000. #2606700



Ann Arbor 2225 Belmont. Meticulously updated 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath nestled on 2 lush acres in Ann Arbor Hills. Wood floors, walls of windows, 1st floor master. Viewout lower level, 4 patios, gardens. \$1,450,000. #2610084

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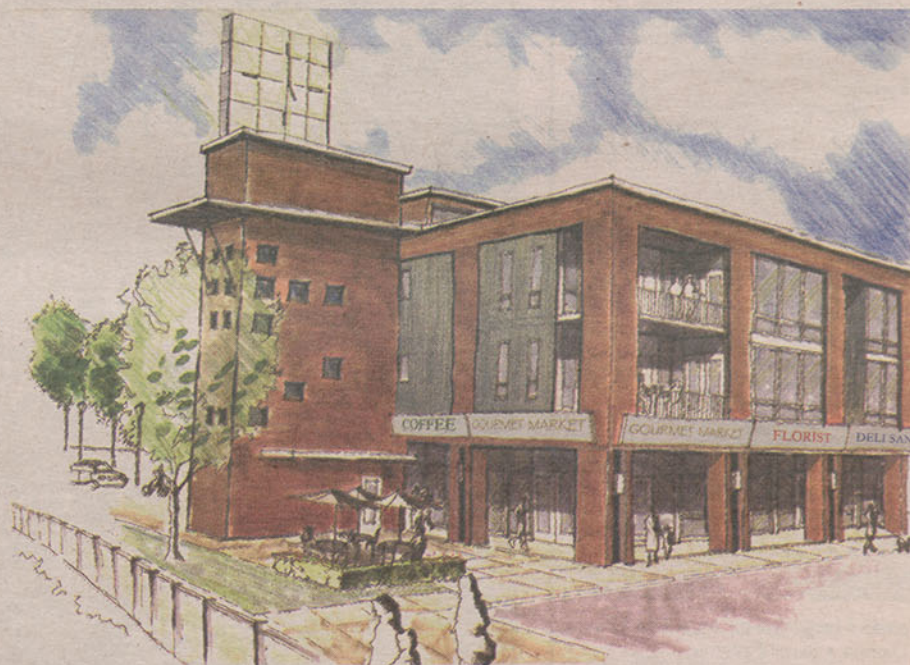
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Manchester Historic, brick Italianate on 16 wooded acres. Totally renovated and stunning. Offers 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, library, hardwood floors, new mechanicals, and more. \$599,000. Deborah Engelbert 734-368-3683, 734-433-2183. #2608661



Dexter Horse lovers welcome! Fabulous custom built brick ranch with quality and character. Gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors, Corian in baths, lovely master suite. \$719,900. Kelly Parks 517-812-9706, 734-433-2198. #2609214



Chelsea 177 Glazier. 5,800 sq. ft., 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath home on all-sports Cavanaugh Lake. Great room with walls of windows, study, master suite. Media room, wet bar in walkout. Guest house, screen porch. \$995,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #2605701



Ann Arbor Home on 1.36 acres with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, new kitchen. Office with separate entrance, hardwood flooring, fireplace, door wall to deck, finished lower level with bedroom and bath. \$469,900. Sherry Grammatico 734-604-0367, 734-669-5901. #2607590



Onsted North Shore luxury living on Sand Lake. Large deck with great views. Bamboo floors, fireplace, long dock. Oversized 2-car garage. Beautiful landscaping. \$599,900. Michael St. Clare 734-709-1209, 734-669-4550. #2608470



Ann Arbor Decora maple cabinets, granite, stainless steel appliances, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2nd floor family/theatre room. Covered veranda overlooks 16th fairway of Polo Fields. 3-car garage. \$765,000. Nancy L. Bahr 734-645-2598, 734-669-5952. #2605987



Dexter Peaceful estate on private lake. 3-story timber frame with barn on 11 acres. Walkout lower level, screened porch. Incredible property, like up-north! \$1,350,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #2605134



Ann Arbor Burns Park home with hardwood floors, leaded glass, French doors, expansive living spaces, updated bath, kitchen and sunny breakfast room. Walk to campus and all schools. Hurry! \$519,000. Jeri Sawall 734-395-4926, 734-669-5907. #2607634



Saline High-quality 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath. Great location, on cul-de-sac in desirable family-friendly sub. Open plan, beautiful views, deck. Premium walkout lot, acre. \$599,900. Sue Kasza 734-276-0779, 734-669-4567. #2609764



Ann Arbor Elite 4 bedroom (1st floor master), 4.5 bath home features gourmet kitchen with maple and granite. 2 fireplaces, gorgeous oak staircase and flooring. 1-plus acre with panoramic views. \$779,900. Herb Pearson 734-904-4787, 734-669-5899. #2608377



Ann Arbor 5093 Dixboro Farms. 2 acres on N.E. side of town. Extraordinary Nantucket-style new home with elegance and style throughout. 5,000 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, one-of-a-kind butternut cabinets. \$1,495,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #2604600



Ann Arbor Pristine 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath on cul-de-sac with fabulous lot. Maple kitchen, granite island, upgraded trim and wainscoting throughout. Floor to ceiling windows. \$529,900. Tracey Roy-Williams 734-417-5827, 734-669-5877. #2608338



Ann Arbor Magnificent villa, quality built, superb decorating throughout. Park-like setting with view of woods. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 patios, 2-car garage. \$649,000. Jeannette Middleton 734-663-4723, 734-669-5826. #2608261



Ann Arbor Authentic Ives Woods home in impeccable condition. Architectural gem, original Pewabic tile, stained glass, wood work/doors/staircase. Updated granite kitchen. \$829,900. Susan Niethammer 734-669-5995, 734-971-6070.



Dexter 8 acre estate for those who want privacy and quality. 6,500 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, elevator, granite, Italian slate and cherry floors, home theatre. Pool and cabana house. \$1,695,000. Pat Durston 734-260-9247, 734-669-5981. #2609200

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Marc Rubin, 646-9000.
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Condo Alternative/Great For Entertaining! This low maintenance new home is a showpiece—a work of art with too many custom features for words. An extra large lot and 2 garages on the Old West Side! \$547,500. (JA2606712)

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Warm Family Home—on park-like setting. Four bedrooms - Glenborough Development. First-floor master suite with Jacuzzi. Open floor plan connects to spacious kitchen, Great room and deck. Pleasant 4-season room. Fully finished lower level. \$799,900. (BE2601118)

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Barton Hills! Magnificent Tudor home custom-built in 1922. Private, breathtaking setting on 2.8 acres. Restored to original grandeur, extensive gardens, terraces and 21st century amenities. A must see luxury estate! \$3,100,000. (BA2608520)

Shiela Dietz, 904-7757 / 662-8600.
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Reserve Now!—Only 6 left! Half a mile to downtown AA. Includes 2 garage spaces plus basement. 1,900-2,500 sq. ft. \$570,000-\$695,000. The Ravines.

Sherri Richwine, 663-9767 / 302-8831.
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Newer Brick Colonial on a cul-de-sac in Sandpiper Cove. First-floor master suite, fully finished basement with craft room, 3-car garage, 1 acre site. \$445,900. (GO2609283)

Barry Kenyon, 635-2000 / 302-8827.
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Wow! Great location, great flow, great light, great master suite, great yard, great finished lower level, garage, and workshop... you've got to see this home, you'll love it all! \$350,000. (ST2608009)

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Best 3-Bedroom, 3.5-bath condo on the market today! The best condition, location, price, and view. Plus a fully finished walkout basement, 2-car garage, LOW township taxes, and miniscule association fee. \$236,900. (BE2608105)

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This King School Area Home will take your breath away!! Just seconds from parks and recreation of all kinds. Great flow and light! New mechanicals and entire make over in past 3 years. Be the first in line to see this home. \$420,000. (SU2610237)

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Paradise Found! Home on 45 acre estate. Majestic hardwood and pine forest, split able, sandy soil, and gently rolling with several possible walkout building sites with a pond. Call today for a private showing! \$649,000. (SC2607802)

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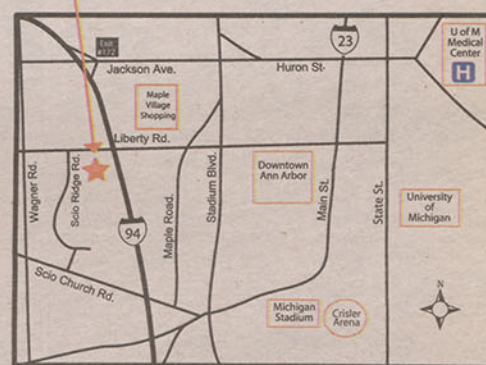
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Stunning North Lake contemporary. Unique custom design. Light-filled interior. "Up North" setting backing to state land. 3 BR, 3 baths. 2700sf.

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Spectacular Pond Views!

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Nearly new two story! 2 bedroom, 2.5 baths. Relax in this serene setting. 1750sf. Luxury Master suite with jetted tub & separate shower.



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GREAT NEW PRICE! \$224,500
Upper level ranch with cathedral ceilings. 2 BR plus flex room ideal for study or workout area. 2 decks. 1563sf. Open floor plan, att. garage. Walk to Paneras & Briarwood Mall!



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STONEBRIDGE – This home is absolutely breathtaking. Super custom-built home overlooking the pond and #17 fairway at Stonebridge. Every conceivable amenity is here including extensive cherry floors, cherry kitchen with granite counters, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement with large rec room. \$849,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – Gracious 5-bedroom, 4½-bath custom-built home on the golf course in one of Saline's premier communities. Vaulted ceilings, cherry kitchen, granite countertops, hardwood floors, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$849,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – BURNS PARK – Complete renovation inside and out awaits you at this striking 5-bedroom, 3-bath home. Extensive upgrades throughout including custom maple kitchen with granite counters, slate floors in many rooms, luxury master suite with vaulted ceiling and modern bath, and great flex-use third floor. \$849,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – NICHOLS ARBORETUM AREA – This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial is just a short walk to the Arb and U-M Campus. Extensive renovation makes this home a wonderful find. Features include master bedroom addition, remodeled maple kitchen, oversized family room, ample hardwood floor, and gorgeous private lot. \$699,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home features showcase-like finishes throughout. Wonderful floor plan includes two-story living room, den with oak paneled walls, cherry kitchen with marvelous eating area, family room with site built cabinets, and first-floor master suite with marble bath. WOW! \$679,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – LAKE FOREST – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 4-bath colonial. Perfect setting backing to protected forest area. Interior is loaded including all hardwood floors, maple kitchen with granite counter tops, two-story family room with wall of glass, and luxury master suite including flex-use sitting area. \$649,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – DOWNTOWN ANN ARBOR – Walk everywhere from this turn-of-the-century 5-bedroom, 3-bath home in the heart of town. This home displays all the charm and character of days gone by including oversized trim, craftsman stair, and Victorian detail plus a remodeled kitchen, finished attic, and more. \$635,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – SALINE – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath builder's model home now available in Legacy Heights. This 2005 Showcase of Homes entry is loaded with custom finishes and features. Cherry kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, large family room, den with built-ins, oversized master suite, and designer décor throughout. \$599,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – YORK MEADOWS – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home is just perfect. Incredible setting with oversized yard, extensive landscaping, and large patio. Interior is out of a magazine. Cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, two-story family room with wall of glass to backyard, and luxurious master suite. You will love it. \$549,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE – Very special 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home in Hunter's Ridge. Gracious colonial set deep in the neighborhood features private lot with ancient oak tree. Interior is fabulous including two-story family room, spacious kitchen with hardwood floor and Corian, luxury master suite, and finished basement. You will love it. \$534,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE – 3-bedroom, 3-bath detached condo on the 13th fairway at Stonebridge. Extensive upgrades. Enjoy the view from the 3-season porch and oversized deck. Features include granite kitchen, ample hardwood floors, luxury master suite, flex-use den, and finished basement with full bar and great flex-use space. \$529,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – BRIARHILL – Custom built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Spectacular features throughout including two-story living room, maple kitchen with granite counter tops, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$529,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE – This 4-bedroom, 4½-bath Bayberry home in the Arboretum is an incredible value. Many quality features and amenities including cherry kitchen with Corian counters, oversized two-story great room, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished basement with viewout windows. \$460,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP – Stately, new 4-bedroom, 4-bath colonial on a private 6-acre parcel just minutes to Ann Arbor, St. Joe's, and freeways. This home is loaded with quality features including gourmet kitchen with maple cabinets, ample hardwood floors, family room with vaulted ceiling, and luxury master suite. \$450,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – BRIARHILL – You will love this 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a private lot with pond view. The list of amenities is long and includes kitchen with granite countertops, large family room with vaulted ceiling, extensive hardwood floors, luxury master suite with marble bath, and finished walkout basement with great flex-use spaces. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE – This well appointed 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs features wonderful updates and perfect, move-in condition. Features include ample hardwood floors, great room with fireplace and beautiful windows, kitchen with granite counters, luxury first-floor master suite, and significant, mature landscaping. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



TECUMSEH – Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 3-bath 1800s farmhouse on 15 pastoral acres 10 minutes south of downtown Saline. Featuring heated barn perfect for car storage. Interior has best of old and new with cherry kitchen and Corian counters, hardwood floors, oversized moldings, family room, and luxury master suite. \$399,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – BRIDGEFIELD ESTATES – Custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac backing to trees. Interior is upgraded in everyway including gourmet kitchen with maple cabinets, granite counters, and stainless steel professional grade appliances, two-story great room, and luxury master suite with sitting room. \$394,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – WATERLOO RECREATION AREA – Are you looking for a quiet country property? This is it! Enjoy the gorgeous wooded, private 5-acre setting from this custom-built cedar home. This home has wonderful flair including great room with vaulted ceiling and field-stone fireplace, large kitchen, screened porch, first-floor master suite, and 30'x40' pole barn. \$379,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – LAKE FOREST HIGHLANDS – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home rests on one of the best lots to be found. Enjoy the quiet cul-de-sac location with expansive backyard, deck, patio, and extensive landscaping. Interior is move-in perfect featuring great room with vaulted ceiling, oversized kitchen with hardwood floor, luxury master suite, and finished basement. \$379,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SAGINAW HILLS – Incredible opportunity available with this 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a gorgeous 2.8 acre lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Unique interior design features oversized living room with vaulted ceiling, family room with fireplace, master loft, and some wonderful flex-use space. \$329,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – SILO RIDGE – Enjoy quiet, quality living from this perfectly maintained 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a peaceful one acre cul-de-sac lot. This home is wonderful and features extensive landscaping, large deck, open family room with bookcases, spacious formal rooms, first-floor study, and nice master suite. \$314,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – TRAVIS POINTE – This wonderful 2-bedroom, 2½-bath condo has been extensively remodeled in the past 3 years. Fabulous setting with well-landscaped backyard, 3 decks, and views of trees and golf. Interior is very well done with two-story great room, spacious kitchen with new appliances, second-floor loft, and spacious master suite. Perfect! \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



MILAN – This is one of the nicest homes you will find. Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a spacious acre lot in York Township. The list is long: cherry kitchen, remodeled baths, perfect décor, finished walkout basement, huge deck and patio. WOW! \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - KING SCHOOL AREA - This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath custom built home represents the most classic example of true contemporary architecture and décor available in Ann Arbor. Gorgeous acre property in the heart of one of the area's most desired locations. The proportions are massive throughout with top quality finishes everywhere. \$1,295,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEWPORT CREEK - Fantastic custom-built home in Ann Arbor's premier neighborhood. Gourmet cherry kitchen with granite and the highest-end appliances, dramatic living spaces with top-quality finish, luxury master suite, finished basement, the latest home electronics, and more. \$1,199,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - POLO FIELDS - This is one of the finest homes you will ever see! Top quality custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac with panoramic golf course views. Interior is special featuring ample hardwood floors, cherry kitchen with granite counters, oversized first-floor master suite, two-story living room, and finished walkout basement with theater. Wow! \$1,075,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - STONEBRIDGE - This incredible custom-built waterfront home overlooking the golf course is just stunning. Every detail is covered featuring two-story family with wall of glass to water, gourmet kitchen with subzero fridge, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement with great multi-use space. This home is gorgeous!! \$872,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



ANN ARBOR - Stunning new construction now under way in Pheasant Hollow by Evergreen Custom Homes. Incredible design and flair make this home a real winner. Custom features throughout including maple kitchen with granite counter, two-story family room, luxury master suite, and more. \$699,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - MATTHAI FARM - This custom-built ranch on a peaceful acre lot is a nature lover's paradise. Enjoy private surroundings, natural harmony, and extensive landscaping from one of four decks. The interior is in perfect condition and features an oversized great room with redwood ceiling and natural fireplace, luxurious master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$699,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - NE ANN ARBOR - Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built, builder's home on a peaceful acre lot. This 3-year-old home has all the bells and whistles. Inviting brick and stone interior, two-story great room with vaulted ceiling, custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, dream master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$689,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE - Stately 4-bedroom, 4½-bath custom-built home on the 9th hole at Stonebridge. Gracious brick colonial on perfect grounds with extensive patio, 3-car garage, 2-story family room, cherry kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished basement with bar, rec room, home theater, and bath. \$679,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Builder's model home 4-bedroom, 4½-bath Huntington Woods. This home is incredible featuring extensive upgrades, professional decorating, and more. Amenities include gorgeous crown moldings, cherry kitchen, granite counters, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$589,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



MANCHESTER - Stunning 4-bedroom, 3-bath timber frame style home set on 12 gorgeous, private acres bordering a nature conservatory. Incredible feel with exposed beam construction, upgrades galore, custom kitchen with granite counters, luxury master bedroom, and separate suite with full kitchen. \$579,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - POLO FIELDS - Inviting 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial on a quiet ½ acre lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired communities. The décor in this home is stunning. Features include two-story foyer, kitchen with hardwood floor, spacious family room with custom entertainment center, luxury master suite, and finished basement with rec room and office. Great home! \$549,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



YORK MEADOWS - Fabulous new construction by Mitch Gasche on a tree-lined acre lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. Incredible 5-bedroom, 4½-bath design with only the best finishes. Features include custom maple kitchen with granite countertops, den with site-built cabinets, maple hardwood floors, and luxury master suite. \$549,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - BRIARHILL - This 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath expanded and upgraded colonial in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs has the perfect combination of space and amenities. Professional landscaping and large patio. Interior has hardwood floor, granite kitchen countertops, oversized den, and luxury master suite. You will love it! \$479,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



ANN ARBOR SCHOOLS - Turn-of-the-century 4-bedroom, 2½-bath Victorian on 4 acres in Pittsfield Twp. Incredible combination of historic beauty, modern updates, and a park-like setting. Features include heated garage, barn, remodeled kitchen with granite, fieldstone fireplace, and remodeled master suite. \$479,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - TANGLEWOOD - This striking 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath on a private, one acre lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. Features include oversized deck, ample hardwood floor, large family room with fieldstone fireplace, wonderful formal living room and dining room, and great bedrooms. \$469,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - LAKE FOREST - This 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath former builder's model home is just perfect! Incredible features inside and out including extensive mature landscaping, large deck, and patio. Interior is highlighted by ample hardwood flooring, maple kitchen with granite counters, two-story family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$469,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - STONEBRIDGE - Custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot loaded with custom features and amenities. Features include striking two-story great room, upgraded kitchen with maple cabinets and granite counter tops, luxury first-floor master suite, den with built-ins, and finished basement with great flex-use rec space. \$429,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - MANCHESTER - Are you looking for the perfect country retreat? This is it. Enjoy the rolling vistas from the rock solid, all-brick ranch on 10 pastoral acres just outside of town. This home has the perfect set-up with two pole barns, fenced horse pasture, and in-ground pool. Interior is sharp with great room and finished walkout basement. \$429,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



EAST HORIZONS - This is a super 5-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home on a spacious acre lot in one of the area's most desired subs. Features inside and out with extensive landscaping, large deck, great room with vaulted ceiling, large kitchen with hearth sitting area, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$409,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - STONEBRIDGE - Super sharp 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a private lot in one of the area's best neighborhoods. This home is perfect featuring large kitchen with hardwood floor and 9-ft. ceilings, open family room, spacious master suite, and in move-in condition. You will love this home! \$399,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - ANN ARBOR - Enjoy the best of all worlds in this newer 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home within walking distance to Allmendinger Park, U-M Football, and downtown. Home features private backyard, extensive landscaping, great room with vaulted ceiling, large kitchen, and luxury master suite. You will love it! \$369,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - ANN ARBOR - New construction walking distance to downtown!! Well built 3-bedroom, 2½-bath two-story loaded with quality upgrades and amenities. You will love the maple kitchen with 9-ft. ceilings, spacious living room, and luxury master suite. Not lot with private backyard. \$339,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - CHELSEA - Rock solid, custom-built all-brick ranch on a peaceful acre lot in one of Chelsea's most desired subs, North Lake Downs. This home is wonderful inside and out featuring extensive landscaping, large deck, 3-season porch, large formal and informal spaces, and finished basement. \$339,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - GRASS LAKE - This 4-bedroom, 3-bath model home by Harris Homes is now available. Gorgeous interior décor highlight this very livable home. Great location just one mile off I-94. Features include oversized great room, kitchen with hardwood floors, and large first-floor master suite with sitting area and deluxe bath. \$339,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - AUGUSTA TWP - Rock solid 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch on a treed acre lot just minutes to US-23. This home has had an extreme makeover: new items in the past 5 years include roof, siding, carpet, paint, and windows. Great floor plan features family room with fireplace, large kitchen, and good sized bedrooms. \$229,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - GRASS LAKE - This brand new 3-bedroom, 3-bath ranch on a peaceful 2-acre parcel is just wonderful. This open floor plan features a large kitchen with maple cabinets and hardwood floors, large great room, luxury master suite, and finished basement. \$220,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - SALINE - This 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch on a quiet cul-de-sac street has been completely redone inside and out. Wonderful features including 2½-car garage, fenced yard, new kitchen with maple cabinets, hardwood floors, sharp décor, and full basement. \$184,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



YPSILANTI - Super sharp 3-bedroom, 1½-bath brick colonial, walking distance to EMU. This home is as cute as it gets and in move-in condition. Features include spacious living room with hardwood floors, coved ceiling and fireplace, formal dining room, large sun room, spacious bedrooms, and private backyard. \$189,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

Distinctive Homes from Edward Surovell

For more information regarding these and other executive homes available in Washtenaw, Jackson, Monroe and Lenawee counties, please call Edward Surovell Realtors at 877.833.3600.



Three Levels of Unique Architectural Features, including arched cutouts, cathedral ceilings and upscale finishes, enhance this custom-built home in The Preserves. Walls of windows with lake and valley views, gourmet kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances. First-floor master with double shower and covered porch. 6,095 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 4 full baths, 1 half bath. \$799,000 • ML#2602603 • Nancy Bishop, 734.761.3040



Superior Design and Detail are coupled with every amenity, including an elevator, in this Ann Arbor home on 2.89 acres. Two-story great room with stone fireplace, professional kitchen, Ritz-Carlton master suite with fireplace, study and screened porch. 9,700 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, 4 full baths, 1 half bath. \$1,795,000 • ML#2608304 • Nancy Bishop, 734.761.3040



Amazing Transformation of a 1950s ranch into a stunning 21st century family home! High-end kitchen with stainless appliances, large family room with fireplace and ash hardwood floors throughout. First-floor master suite. Elevator from garage to kitchen area. 3,703 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 1 half bath. \$1,480,000 • ML#2606487 • Carolyn Lepard, 734.663.9202



Love Lake Living within 20 minutes of Ann Arbor? This executive home was just finished in 2003 on all-sports Clear Lake and adjoins 20,000 acres of state land. Five-car garage, top quality finishes throughout, 2 fireplaces. Chelsea Schools. 4,050 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 4 full baths, 1 half bath. \$1,295,000 • ML#2609524 • Tammy Lehman, 734.320.0959



Tranquil Setting, Minutes from Town. Amazing solid brick contemporary on 9 acres in Webster Twp., with township taxes and Ann Arbor Schools. Two fireplaces. Light-filled curved-wall rooms offer views of nature. Twelve-car detached garage with multiple overhead doors for classic cars, shop and office. 3324 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 1 half bath. \$799,000 • ML#2607845 • Nick Bauder, 734.730.7445



Exquisite Country French Estate on 50+ acres. Barns, stables, fenced riding pastures, stocked pond, security gated property. Custom cobblestone construction, cedar shake roof. Extraordinary old world craftsmanship featuring hand carved details and modern amenities throughout this truly unique estate. 15,601 sq. ft., 7 bedrooms, 6 full and 2 half baths. \$6,750,000 • ML#2607869 • Alison Robinson & Jill Lippman, 734.730.2279



Traditional Barton Hills Home overlooks 40-acre nature area from new 4-season solarium and deck! Updated cherry kitchen, crown and base molding, raised fireplace, marble wet bar and deep window seats in each bedroom. Finished basement with recessed lighting. A move-in ready gem! 2,800 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 1 half bath. \$845,000 • ML#2608148 • Nancy Bishop, 734.761.3040



"The Innwood House" by Carl Heuter offers superior construction, architecture, and finishes. Interior features include leaded glass windows, a 1910 antique stained glass window over the dining room and stunning kitchen with butcher block island and Wolf range. Center fireplace in sunken great room. 3,008 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 1 half bath. \$925,000 • ML#2609965 • Nancy Bishop, 734.761.3040



Turn-of-the-century Charm awaits in this updated Ann Arbor colonial. Restored original hardwood floors, wood pocket and French doors, 9-ft. ceilings. Formal dining room with bay window seat, built-in bookshelves in study. Three fireplaces are a great alternative to high energy costs. Walk to everything! 4,044 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, 2 full and 2 half baths. \$850,000 • ML#2608993 • Nancy Bishop, 734.761.3040



Perched High Above the Huron River Valley with stunning views and total privacy. Hear the river rapids in this unique Ann Arbor community. First-floor master suite with hot tub access, 1st-floor study, oak floors, open floor plan, finished walkout, 3 fireplaces, new paver-patios front and back. 3,813 sq. ft., 6 bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths. \$789,000 • ML#2609257 • Michal Porath, 761.395.0650

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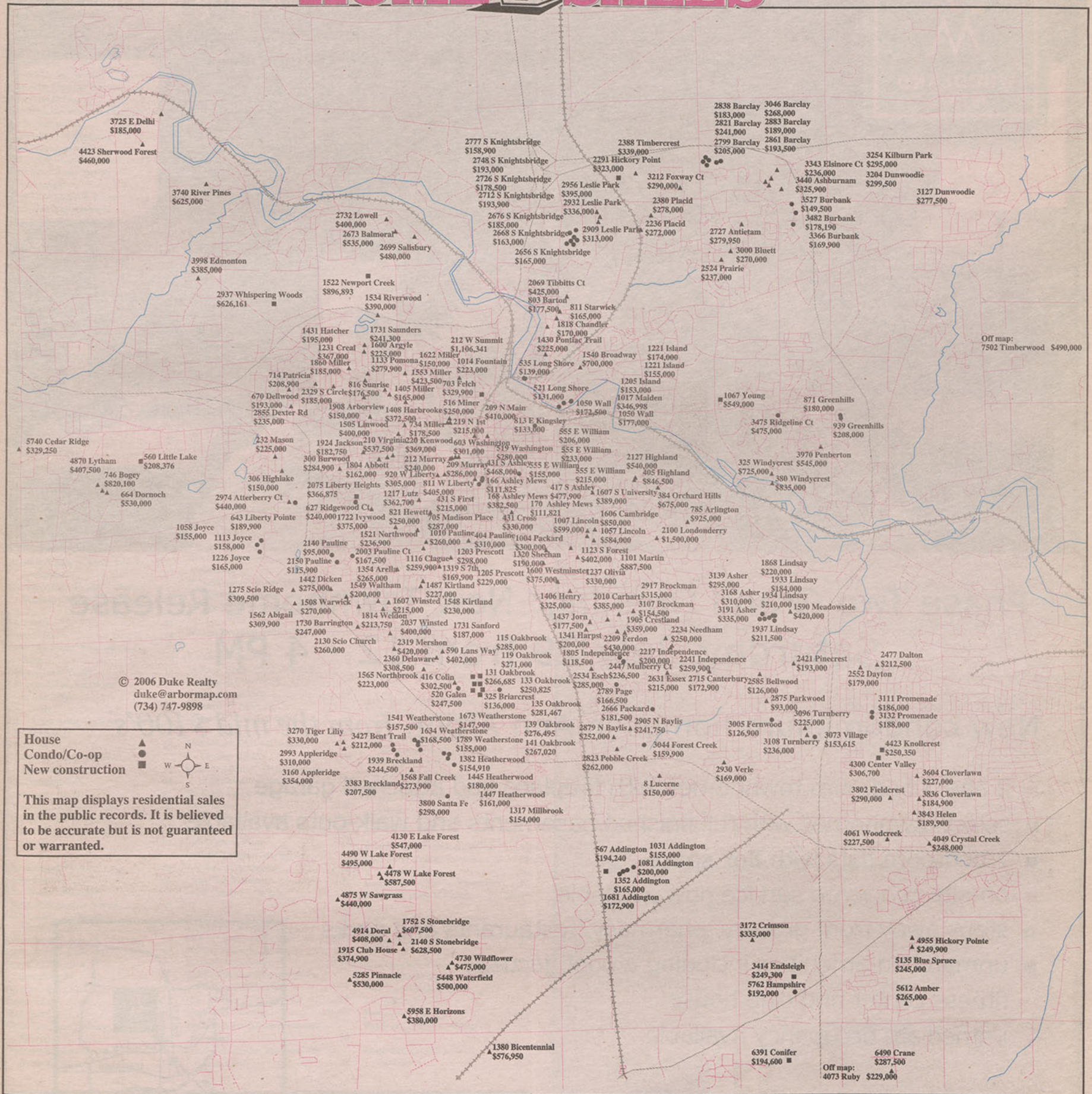
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JUNE 2006 HOME SALES



Home sales in the Ann Arbor school district are down 15 percent this year compared to the first six months of 2005. The sharp decline doesn't look good any way you cut it, but comparisons with previous years make it look even worse. This year's January-June tally is off a steep 22 percent from 2004's, and down 28 percent from 2003's frantic pace. The prolonged slump is stacking up the inventory of homes for sale much like unsold automobiles overflowing dealers' parking lots.

Builders suffered a disproportionate share of the punishment: new-home sales have fallen 47 percent compared to last year's pace. One reason may be that owners of existing houses have more flexibility in a down market. Because many resellers are booking large gains over the prices they originally paid, they are better situated than builders to offer concessions to buyers—and they are much more likely to be protected from rising interest rates by long-term mortgages while they wait.

Builders, on the other hand, are financing homes with "hot money" at less favorable terms. Rapidly rising construction costs—magnified by the rising cost of energy—increase builders' pain when they are obliged to include more and more "extras" to sweeten a deal.

It is also worth repeating that new-home sales counts don't include buyers who have reserved units in condominiums currently under construction downtown. The completion of these buildings will

offset some if not all of the current imbalance in sales reports.

Who gets the best of this market? The numbers have been kinder, if not gentle, to condo sellers: existing-condo sales fell just one-third as much as the market as a whole. Resales of existing condos and co-ops in January through June 2006 were down just 5 percent from the same period in 2005.

—Kevin Duke



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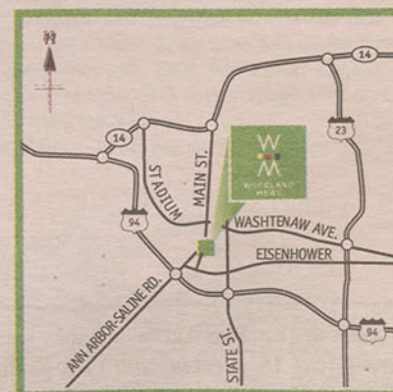
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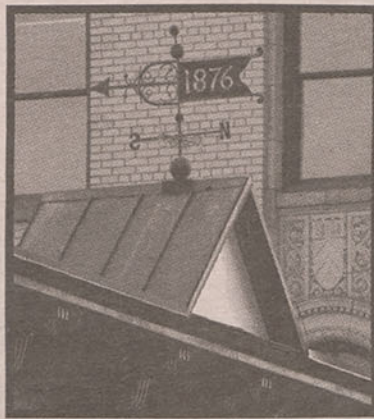
i spy

by Sally Bjork

In 1898 this manufacturer and bottler advertised, "Special attention given to all orders . . . for family use."

To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

The Washtenaw County clerk, Larry Kestenbaum, precisely identified the terracotta ornament "from the facade of the Vinology (former Mayer-Schairer) building, in the 100 block of South Main Street downtown"—the "spirited restaurant" that was July's I Spy. Still known to



many as the longtime home of office supply store Mayer-Schairer, it was built for Schaeberle & Son Pianos in 1908.

Kestenbaum beat out five other entrants—Julie Carroll, Dick Gardner, David Shoup, George Valenta, and Ginny Weingate—to win our random drawing. He'll receive a copy of Jonathan L. Marwil's *History of Ann Arbor*.



fake ad

by Jay Forstner

We received only seventy-four entries correctly identifying last month's Fake Ad for the Jai Alliance (p. 76). That number is hardly a record low, but it is down quite a bit from what we'd been getting. Perhaps it will quiet—at least for a while—the critics who say our contest is too easy.

Our winner was Ann Arbor's Kathryn Sanderson, who wrote, "The basics of wagering," the 'Frontots' program, and the 'Dade Road' address are clues to the ad's bogus nature. Jai alai is a popular betting sport in Dade County. *Fronton* is the Spanish word for the jai alai court (possibly the English word too)." Nice work. Sanderson is taking her gift certificate to Fourth Ave Birkenstock.

We also received two incorrect entries, a reminder that you can't always get everything right. As if the Fake Ad

Czar's family needed any reminding. When he was a kid, the Czar received a video game that featured jai alai, though in the sans-serif, all-caps 1970s, it looked on the controls like "JAL ALAL." As a result, the Czar often confuses jai alai with the Israeli national airline. He must

have inherited this tendency to mix things up from his mother. She was once relating a story she had heard about a golf course that used llamas for caddies. Only she got confused and said it used ostriches. Picture it.

To enter the August contest, identify the Fake Ad by name and page number, and let us know at the address below. Watch for the magic word ar-

borweb, the name of the Observer's website, hidden somewhere in the Fake Ad. (In July it was in the phone number.) The winner of our random drawing will receive a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Fall leagues now forming!



Now's the time to get your son or daughter involved in the second-fastest-growing youth sport in the country—jai alai. The Jai Alliance fields youth teams in recreational, travel, and elite leagues. At our introductory session, players will learn the basics of throwing, catching, and wagering. Our popular "Frontots" program is available for preschoolers.



3455 Dade Road • Ann Arbor
726-7932

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Fax: (734) 769-4950. E-mail: penny@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Thursday, August 10, will be eligible for the August drawings.



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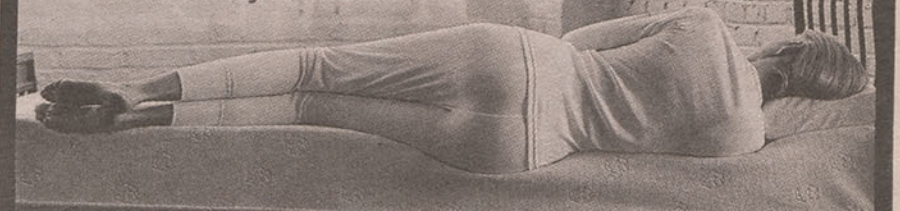


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Events at a Glance

A capsule guide to selected major events in August. See p. 49 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings also begin on p. 49.

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- The Tarbox Ramblers (blues), Aug. 1
- Paul Geremia (blues), Aug. 2
- Gaelic Storm (Celtic fusion), Aug. 3
- Dashboard Confessional (alternative rock), Aug. 4
- Slaid Cleaves (country-rock), Aug. 4
- The Raconteurs (rock 'n' roll), Aug. 5
- Livingston Taylor (singer-songwriter), Aug. 5
- John Sinclair & Bluestone (blues & jazz), Aug. 6
- Del Castillo (flamenco fusion), Aug. 8
- Dixie Power Trio (Dixieland), Aug. 9
- Milan Bluegrass Festival with Rhonda Vincent & others, Aug. 10-12
- Tinsley Ellis (blues), Aug. 10
- The Iguanas (New Orleans party music), Aug. 11
- NOMO (post-Afrobeat), Aug. 12
- Tim O'Reagan (rock 'n' roll), Aug. 13
- The Ditty Bops (pop vocal duo), Aug. 17
- Kelly Joe Phelps (blues), Aug. 18
- Bruce Robison (alt-country), Aug. 19
- Robbie Fulks (alt-country), Aug. 20
- Little Feat (southern rock), Aug. 21
- Millish (Irish-worldbeat fusion), Aug. 23
- Freebo & Photoglo (country-pop), Aug. 24
- Stew Cutler Trio (jazz), Aug. 25
- Suzy Bogguss (country), Aug. 25
- Billy Joe Shaver (country), Aug. 26
- Chris Knight (country-rock), Aug. 28
- Respect Sextet (jazz), Aug. 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Yankee Air Museum "Thunder over Michigan," Aug. 5 & 6
- Dixboro Fair, Aug. 5
- Riverfolk Music & Arts Festival, Aug. 5
- Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club Exotic Bird Exhibition, Aug. 6
- "Dexter Daze," Aug. 11 & 12
- Saline "Summerfest," Aug. 11 & 12
- Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, Aug. 18-20
- Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society Show, Aug. 19 & 20
- Ypsilanti Historic Homes Tour, Aug. 20
- Chelsea Community Fair, Aug. 22-26
- "Connections Festival" with music, storytelling, & dance, Aug. 25-27
- Saline Pro Rodeo, Aug. 25-27
- Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Show, Aug. 26 & 27

Lectures & Readings

- "Cozies" mystery writers Denise Swanson, Sharon Short, Helen Webber, & Judy Clemens, Aug. 19



Benny Cruz



Madhavi Mai



Mady Kouyate

The Connections Festival, August 25-27, offers three days of storytelling, dance, and music by performers that include Detroit ensemble Benny Cruz y La Buena Vida, local classical Indian dancer Madhavi Mai, and Malian-trained singer and kora player Mady Kouyate.

Comedy & Performance Art

- Ann Arbor Poetry Slam, Aug. 1
- Michigan Comedy Competition, Aug. 4
- Comic Keith Ruff, Aug. 5
- Comic J. R. Remick, Aug. 11 & 12
- Comic Ty Barnett, Aug. 17-19
- Performance Network *Pin Up and Pose* fashion soiree, Aug. 20
- Comic Mark Sweeney, Aug. 25 & 26
- Dynamic Tension screening/performance of *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, Aug. 25 & 26

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Children's Creative Center), Aug. 16-19

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Honus & Me* (Purple Rose Theater), Aug. 2-6, 9-13, 16-20, & 23-26
- *The Playboy of the Western World* (Michigan Classical Repertory Theater), Aug. 3-6
- *I Am My Own Wife* (Performance Network), Aug. 3-6, 10-13, 17-20, & 24-27
- *Twelfth Night* (Brass Tacks Ensemble), Aug. 10-13 & 17-19
- *The Gin Game* (Redbud Productions), Aug. 30

Classical & Religious Music

- Sopranos Julia Broxholm & Wendy Bloom and pianist Kathryn Goodson, Aug. 4
- Violinist Anton Shelepov & pianist Michele Cooker, Aug. 6

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Frigg (Nordic), Aug. 6
- *Aap Ka Saroor* with singer-songwriter Himesh Reshammiya & other Bollywood performers, Aug. 18
- Forge Mountain Diggers (old-time), Aug. 29

Miscellaneous

- Primary Election, Aug. 8

"Only in Ann Arbor" Events of the Month

- Huron River Watershed Council "Suds on the River" locally brewed beer tasting (and Arbor Brewing Company "Micro Madness" beer tasting), Aug. 10

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Fabulous Summer Events at Pewabic Pottery

ONE-DAY Festival of Antique & Contemporary Art Tiles

Sun., August 13
10AM - 5PM

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- **Members Only**
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- **Open to the Public**
Sat., August 19, 10AM - 5PM • Sun., August 20, Noon - 4PM
- Bring your own packing materials.
- All stock sold as is, all sales final, no returns. No strollers please.
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Pewabic Pottery is open daily to the public

Mon ~ Sat 10AM ~ 6PM • Sun NOON ~ 4PM

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